WE WERE SAMURAI THAT WERE ORDERED TO "LIVE."
"HARMONY OF MIND SWORD AND SOUL FALL LIKE FLOWERS"..... SOMEONE HAS, SAID THIS SAMURAI ERA IS FINISHED.
I WONDER. THE THINGS WE DON'T SAY. CAN ANYONE HEAR THEM?
THERE'S NO PRIDE IN FIRMLY STEPPING FORWARD. THIS DREAM VANISHED LONG AGO.
EVEN SO.....

WE WERE NOT FORGIVEN FOR HALTING THOSE STEPS.

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WH... YOU AGAIN!
TAMURA GINNO-SUKE!
I DON'T BE-LIEVE IT!!
WHY CAN'T I GO TO EZO!?
"THOSE WITH THE WILL TO FIGHT
CAN COME TO EZO..."
THERE AREN'T ANY MORE CONDITIONS THAN THAT!
YOU'LL GET HURT!
TH-THAT'S RIGHT!
grab
WHAT ELSE COULD HAPPEN TO A PERSON WITH NO COMBAT EXPERIENCE LIKE YOU?
SORRY 'BOUT THIS. HE'S AN IDIOT...
swack
I'VE GOT A BAD FEEL-ING...
SEE? LET'S GO BACK, GIN.
alright alright.
RIGHT RIGHT.

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T/N: THE SHOGITAI WAS AN ELITE PRO-BAKUFU UNIT.
I NEVER KNEW THEY HEADED TO EZO THOUGH.

EVERYONE!!
.....
LEAVE ME ALONE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, IDIOT!?
THIS IS THE RESO-LUTION OF A SAMUAI!!
WE NEED TO READY AN ESCORT IMMEDIATELY!
THE SHOGITAI SHOULD BE ON THEIR WAY.
A MESSAGE ARRIVED FROM THE CAPTAIN!
OF COURSE!
!!!
BE SURE TO MAKE IT A WARM WELCOME!
!?
IT'S COMMAN-DER HIJI-KATA!!

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STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP!!
RELEASE
GIN
GIN! ARE YOU OKAY!?
I'M FINE ...
.....?

TN: THE DENSHUTAI WAS ANOTHER ELITE UNIT, THIS TIME HELMED BY OOTORI KEISUKE. THEY WERE TRAINED IN WESTERN BATTLE TACTICS AND EFFICIENT WITH GUNS.

.....
?
.....
THANKS SO MUCH! YOU'RE AMAZINGLY FAST!
THAT HAT... ARE YOU PART OF THE DENSHUTAI?
SFX: GROWL
STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSI-NESS.
I'LL BE SURE TO TELL THE CAPTAIN.
... NEVER-MIND.
I'LL COME AGAIN LATER.
DID YOU JUST SAY THAT CAPTAIN HIJIKATA WASN'T HERE?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
AND YOU ARE?

WELL THAT WAS ODD~
COME ON, LET'S GO GINNOSUKE!
stand up!

HON-ESTLY
GIVE IT UP. YOU WERE REFUSED FROM A HIGHER RANK.
SFX: STICK

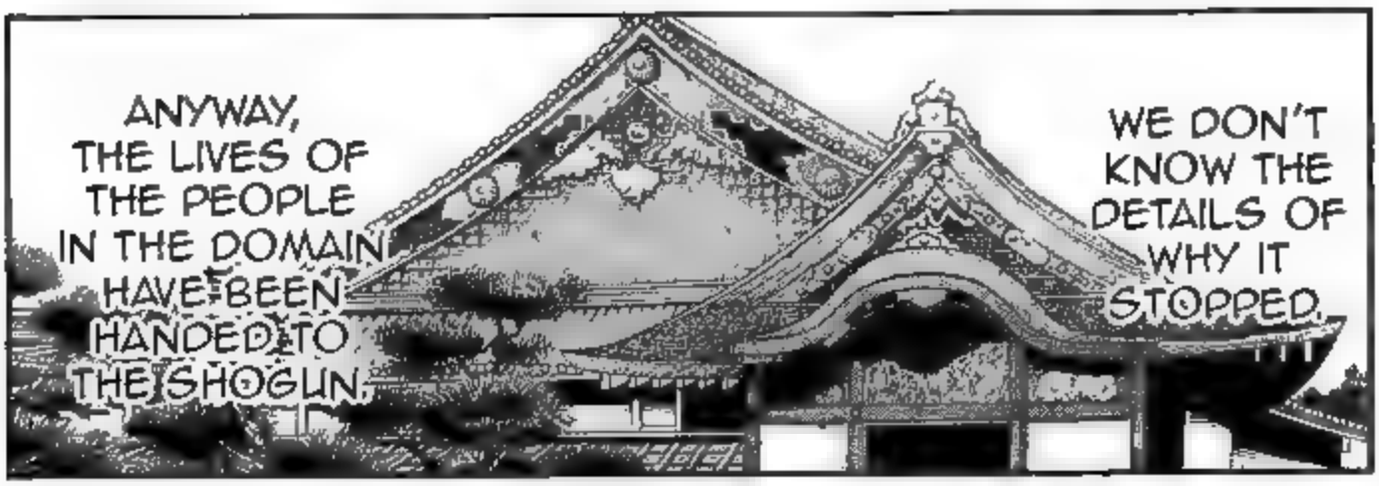
grumble
IF THAT BIG GUY HADN'T COME, THEY WOULD'VE KNOWN MY RESOLUTION.
LEAVE ME ALONE.
3RD SON: GINNOSUKE

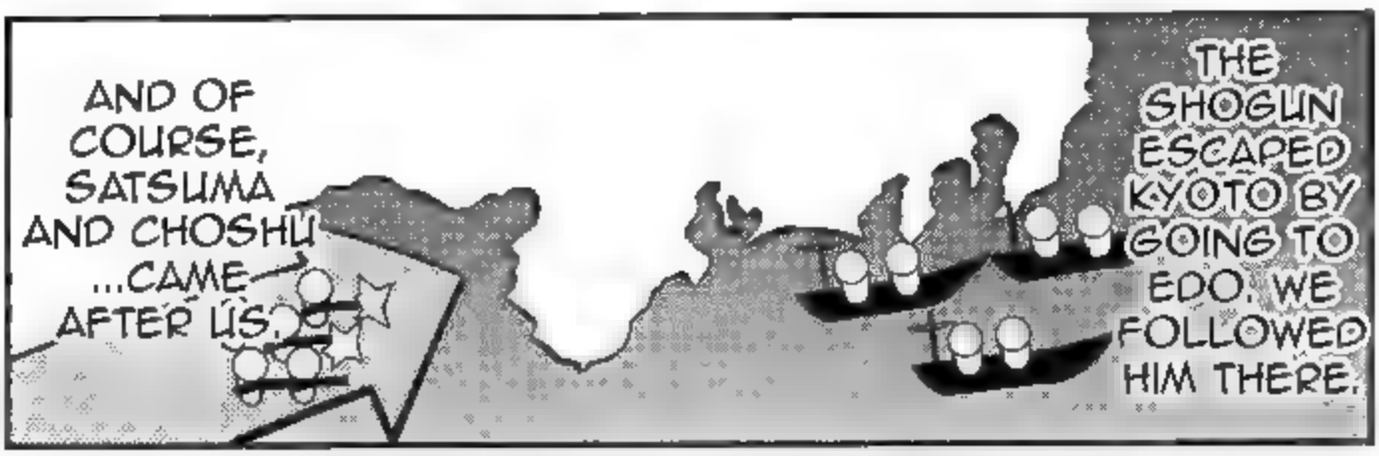
LOOK, GIN.
sigh
DIDN'T YOU HEAR THEM?
THEY DIDN'T ACCEPT YOU.
1ST SON: ICHIRO

※ HIS ACTUAL AGE IS 12 OR 13

I GUESS THIS IS WHY SAMURAI ARE CONVERTING TO USING GUNS.
THAT WAY MERE 14 YEAR-OLD BRATS CAN'T TRY TO COMMIT SEPPUKU ——
HEY!
2ND SON: ROKUGORO
OW OW OW OW
...WELL, WHATEVER HAPPENS,
RIGHT NOW YOU'RE STILL A KID.
thump
bam
YOU ALL KEEP CALLING ME A KID!! IN ONE YEAR I'LL BE AN ADULT!!

THE TOKUGAWA BAKUFU SUDDENLY ENDED
THIS JANUARY


ANYWAY, THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE IN THE DOMAIN HAVE BEEN HANDED TO THE SHOGUN.
WE DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS OF WHY IT STOPPED.


AND OF COURSE, SATSUMA AND CHOSHU ...CAME AFTER US.
THE SHOGUN ESCAPED KYOTO BY GOING TO EDO. WE FOLLOWED HIM THERE.

THE NEW GOVERN-MENT ARMY ALWAYS SEEMS TO MOVE AT A FAST PACE, ODDLY ENOUGH...
.....
I WONDER... HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE ENEMY FORCES FROM US?

NICE IDEAL YOU GOT THERE.
THE AGE OF TOKUGAWA, THE AGE OF SAMURAI, STILL LIVES!
OUR SHOGUN IS STILL ALIVE AND WELL!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "NEW GOVERN-MET" ARMY!?
WHILE WE'RE ENGAGED WITH THE ENEMY IN THE NORTH, THE NAVY IS GATHERING AT ISHINOMAKI IN SENDAI BEFORE LEAVING TO EZO!
THE NAVY SOLDIERS THAT SUPPORT THE BAKUFU WERE NOT GIVEN LEAVE SO THEY HAD TO ESCAPE EDO...
EVEN THE SHOGUN WOULD WANT TO RIDE ON THAT...!
I WANT TO RIDE ON THAT BATTLE-SHIP!
YEAH!!
.....
ROKU-NII!
THERE'S RUMORS THAT THE SHOGUN IS HERE NOW?
MAN... THIS ARMY IS MESSED UP.

SFX
CRY
SHOULDN'T ONLY YOU RUN AWAY TO EZO ON THAT BATTLESHIP?
I SHOULD TELL YOU THE TRUTH.
...I REALLY
THAT'S WHAT YOUR BROTHER THINKS...
I-ICHI-NII?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "RUN AWAY!?"
BUT
WHEN THE CAPTAIN AND THE OTHERS COME BACK FROM EZO...
YOU COULD CALL EZO A "FRIGID UNDEVE-LOPED LAND."
WHY WOULD THEY CHOOSE TO REBUILD OUR FORCES IN SUCH A PLACE...?
WHY DID I EVER BELIEVE THEM!?

...AND EVEN SO HERE WE ARE.
IF WE COULD JUST STOP THE PROGRE-SSION OF THE NEW GOVERN-MENT'S TROOPS...
UM, ICHI-NII
I NEVER SAID WHAT I WAS THINKING EITHER...
OF COURSE THERE'S "I WANT TO FIGHT AS A SAMURAI"
BUT I ALSO WANT TO GO TO EZO "BECAUSE IT LOOKS FUN."
F-
"FUN ...?"
BESIDES BESIDES!

I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO SEE
THEY SAY HE'S THE PAGE NAMED "ICHIMURA" THAT'S ALWAYS BY THE CAPTAIN'S SIDE!
THE RUMORS SAY HE'S CRAZY STRONG!
THE PAGE KNOWN AS THE "SHINIGAMI" IN BATTLE!
I DON'T KNOW HIS FACE YET BUT ONCE WAR STARTS AND I'M IN THE ARMY...
I MIGHT MEET HIM SOMEDAY AS LONG AS I STICK WITH THE CAPTAIN, RIGHT?
.....
...GIN
IT'S A SHAME BUT THAT PERSON IS NO LONGER...

I KNOW THE WHERE-ABOUTS OF THAT PAGE.
DO YOU WANT TO MEET HIM?
DO YOU WANT TO MEET HIM?
REALLY!? THEN CERTAINLY BY ALL MEANS!
NO, BUT THIS IS...!
THE ONE FROM BEFORE ...
FINE.
BUT IN RETURN ——...

clap
...
NII-SAN
FOR THE RICE BALL.
YOU DIDN'T PLAY THE BILL, DID YOU?
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE BUSINESS-MEN!
EVEN ON THE BATTLE-FIELD YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY AND NOT PAY FOR FOOD!
IS THIS OKAY ...?

...HEY, WHAT FORCE ARE YOU ALL PART OF?
HUH?
US?
IT'S REQUIRED TO STATE YOUR FORCE AND NAME.
THE CAPTAIN CAME BACK A WHILE AGO, BUT HE'S CURRENTLY SPEAKING WITH ANOTHER LEADER.
WERE YOU WITH THE FORMER SHINSEN-GUMI?
IT'S NOT "FORMER."
IT'S SHIN-SEN-GUMI.

ALLOW ME TO TELL CAPTAIN HIJIKATA THAT I HAVE RETURNED.
I AM THE SHINSENGUMI PAGE, ICHIMURA TETSUNOSUKE.
... IS THAT SO.

HIS BROTHER'S RAN AWAY!
NO NO DON'T GO DON'T GO!
IS THIS EVEN POSSIBLE?
UWAA IS THIS FOR REAL?
HE'S ALIVE ...!
HEY! HAS ICHIMURA RETURNED!?
... WITH THIS PERSON?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO
I'M ACTUALLY IN CAPTAIN HIJIKATA'S ROOM...
I MUST BE IN BIG TROUBLE!!
AND ALSO THAT I ASSUMED YOU WERE ALL IN THE SAME GROUP.
FORMER SHINSEN-GUMI.
HUH? WHAT !?
?
.. SORRY FOR WHAT I SAID EARLIER

IS-
ISN'T THAT CAPTAIN HIJIKATA'S SHIRT!?
.....
THEY'RE ALL EXACTLY THE SAME. IT DOESN'T MATTER.
THERE'S NOT AS MANY OF US NOW
SO I WAS WONDERING IF THE SHINSENGUMI HAD VANISHED.
AND MY NICKNAME
rub
IS NOT "SHINI-GAMI."
IT'S "POSSESSED BY A SHINIGAMI"

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DID YOU HEAR ME?
DO YOU INTEND TO BRING YOUR OLDER BROTHERS INTO THE FIGHT
FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF FILLING YOUR OWN LONELINESS?
.....
SFX STEP
... FINE.
NOW KEEP QUIET ABOUT THE CIGAR.
HUH?
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SFX: FLIP
HIJIKATA-SENSEI.

...
ICHI
...
MURA
...!

!
FINE
... DON'T SMOKE MY CIGARS WITHOUT PERMI-SSION!

FROM WHEN YOU SPLIT FROM ME UNTIL NOW.
...REPORT THE SITUATION.
SFX: CREAK
SHINSENGUMI CAPTAIN: HIJIKATA TOSHIZO
AND NOW YOU, HIJIKATA-SAN. ARE HERE...
.....
throb throb
WELL, I'VE HEARD THAT MANY PRO-BAKUFU SOLDIERS HAVE GATHERED IN ISHINOMAKI.
... NOTH-ING.
IT WAS A MASSA-CRE.
SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO SURVIVE.
.....HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED IN AIZU?

T/N: NYORAIDO IS A TEMPLE IN AIZU. SAITO (YAMAGUCHI) FOUGHT THERE AND WAS PRESUMED TO HAVE DIED.

.....
clench
IS THAT SO.....
?
? ? ?
?
N-NO, THAT'S...
...WELL IN THE MEANTIME IT WOULD BE BEST TO REST FOR THE JOURNEY.
AND YOU, THE SHRIMP HIDING.
YES!
WHAT ARE YOU HERE FOR?
I'LL DO WHATEVER THE CAPTAIN NEEDS.
SFX: PEEK
歪頭袋

LOOK JUST LIKE ICHIMURA...
...YOU
NO WAY!!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
ARE YOU A SHINSEN-GUMI MEMBER?
.....HUH?
DO YOU WISH TO COME WITH US IN THE FUTURE?
...SO,
YES!!
I WANT TO GO TO EZO!
!!
MY NAME'S TAMURA GINNO-SUKE!!
YES!
I'M THE SHINSEN-GUMI'S PAGE!

HE SAID THAT HE WANTED TO GO TO EZO BECAUSE IT LOOKED "FUN."
"RESOLUTION" IS NOT ENOUGH IF YOU'VE NEVER HELD A GUN.
WE SHOULDN'T TAKE HIM.
HE'LL BE SURE TO REGRET HIS DECISION.

...HE MUST COME PREPARED TO DIE.

SFX CLENCH

THAT'S NOT IT!
I INTEND TO STOP THIS NONSENSE BEFORE IT CAN BEGIN.
AND SO
SURELY HE'D BE SCARED STIFF BY THE DEAD.
HE'S NEVER BEEN ON A BATTLEFIELD BEFORE.

I WANT TO SEE THINGS I HAVEN'T BEFORE!
I PROB-ABLY WON'T LIVE LONG
BUT I WON'T HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE THESE THINGS OTHER-WISE!
I WANT TO SEE THINGS THAT I CAN'T BACK HOME...!

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THAT'S WHY I SAID THAT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUN!
grip
VERY WELL.
ha
ha
ICHI-MURA
HE'S CLEVER, JUST LIKE YOU.
damn
... HEH
TAMURA GINNOSUKE, I PERMIT YOU TO COME WITH US TO EZO.
BUT IN RETURN, YOU NEED TO STAY NEAR ICHIMURA TETSUNO-SUKE FROM NOW ON.

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AMAZ-
ING.
THEY'RE REALLY EXACTLY THE SAME.
I KNOW. IT'S UN-CANNY...
IT'S AS THOUGH ...
HIS CONSCIOUSNESS MATERIALIZED IN A NEW BODY.
HA HA HA
NICE TO MEET YOU, ICHIMURA-SENPAI!
YOU CAN'T DISOBEY THE CAPTAIN'S ORDERS!
DON'T COME NEAR ME.
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HE'S DISRE-SPECTFUL TO THE CAPTAIN AND EVERYONE ELSE!!
HE NEVER SERVES TEA ON TIME!
HE ALWAYS TELLS ME TO KEEP AWAY FROM HIM!
I'M NOT LIKE HIM AT ALL!!
NOW NOW, GIN!
WHAT IS WITH THAT GUY!?
AND HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE SAME AS ME!?

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IM PRETTY WORRIED.
THAT PAGE ICHIMURA HAS ENOUGH OF RUMORS STATING THAT HE'S INCREDIBLY HEARTLESS.
SHOULDN'T YOU BE HAPPY?
NOW YOU'RE ABLE TO GO THROUGH EZO WITH THE CAPTAIN! RIGHT?
YEAH BUT ...
THEY SAY HE'S ALWAYS BY THE CAPTAIN BECAUSE HE'S HIS "FAVORITE OF THE NIGHT. "
HE LEARNED TO FIGHT FROM AN ONI SO HE'S OVERLY CRUEL WHEN HE KILLS AN ENEMY....
FITTINGLY, HIS NICK-NAME IS "POSSESSED BY A SHINI-GAMI."
PEOPLE AROUND HIM SUDDENLY DIE...
HUH? I DID RESEARCH WHILE YOU WERE GETTING SLAP-HAPPY!
ROKU-NII! DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT TO WORRY HIM!
IT'S OKAY, ICHI-NII!
EARLIER I WAS RELIE-VED BUT...
THIS IS ENDANGER-ING HIS LIFE AND CHASTITY ...!
TOMORROW WE'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO SET OFF TO EZO.
ANYWAY...
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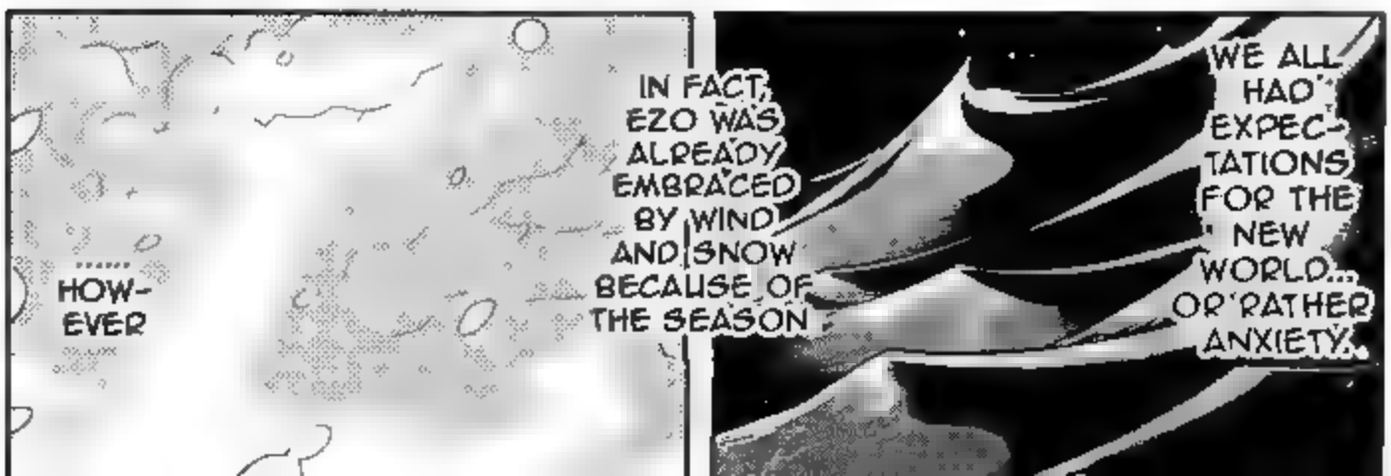
67年

IN MID-OCTOBER
11
MERCHANT SHIPS- AND WARSHIPS, CARRYING ABOUT 2200 PRO-BAKUFU SOLDIERS, LEFT ORINOHAMA OF ICHINOMAKI TOWARDS EZO.


WE ALL HAD EXPEC-TATIONS FOR THE NEW WORLD... OR RATHER ANXIETY.
IN FACT, EZO WAS ALREADY EMBRACED BY WIND AND SNOW BECAUSE OF THE SEASON.
..... HOW-EVER

THE NORTHERN LAND THOUGHT TO BE SEVERELY COLD AND UNEXPLORED
WELCOMED THE PRO-BAKUFU SOLDIERS WITH THE WARMTH OF CIVILIZATION, AGAINST IMAGINATION.
rustle
WE CAN SURVIVE THIS SOMEHOW.
FROM WHAT I HEARD, APPARENTLY THERE'S A HOT SPRING AND A HANAMACHI HERE!
AAH THANK GOOD-NESS!
THERE'S ACTUALLY LIFE HERE ... HOW SURPRISING.
YEAH I'M RELIEVED. IT'S COLD BUT AT LEAST IT'S BEARABLE.

T/N: A HANAMACHI IS AN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT.

T/N: OOTORI IS THE COMMANDER OF THE BAKUFU FORCES
HIJIKATA IS SECOND-IN-COMMAND

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HE'S QUITE AN ANNOYING ASSHOLE.
THAT BASTARD PUTS THE CAPTAIN IN MORE AND MORE DANGER JUST BY BEING NEAR HIM.
rustle
...SO HE'S STILL ALIVE
THE ONE POSSESSED BY A SHINIGAMI.
silence
SFX: ANGRY
.....
NO,
BUT WORSE THAN THAT...
THAT...
WHAT IS THAT...
WHAT'S WITH THOSE NEW CLOTH-ES !!?
HUH
!!?
AREN'T THOSE CAPTAIN HIJIKATA'S HAND-DOWNS !!?

SFX BANG CLAMOR
UNFAIR!!!
痛哭
WE'VE BEEN HERE EVEN LONGER THAN HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
the smell of the captain
THE SLEEVE PASSED US BEFORE WE COULD EVEN TOUCH IT!!
EVERYONE IN HIJIKATA'S FORCE
WHY ARE THEY SO ANGRY !!?
WHERE THE HELL DID YOU GET THOSE CLOTHES!?
rustle rustle
HOW COULD HE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN?
SO UN-FAIRRR ...!
WHAT IS IT, HIJIKATA-SENSEI?
HEY, ICHI-MURA!
YES?
ABOUT 10 TO 15 PEOPLE WERE DEPLOYED AS SCOUTS.
SEE THEM?
PROBABLY ONE OR TWO SQUADS.

... FINE, BUT ...
THE OBJEC-TIVE?
I WANT TO AVOID EXHAUST-ING THE OTHER SOLDIERS.
I WANT YOU TO DIMINISH THEM ALONE.
...AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT
WE'LL SEE IF THAT SHINIGAMI OF YOURS...
CAME WITH YOU HERE TO EZO...

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UNDER-
STOOD.
!!?
A GUN
...!?
THAT'S
...
SEN-
PAI!
I'LL
ALSO
...
SFX GRAB
抓住

IS HE AN IDIOT !?
YOU'LL DIE IF YOU GET ANY CLOSER !!
不良漫化
ENEMY SOLDIERS ARE COMING!!
BUT IT'S ONLY ONE MAN...!!
FIRST ROW, GET READY!
FIRE !!
ドレ
ドレ
ドレ
ドレ

FIRST ROW!! FIRE FIRE!!!
UGH ...
AA AAH !!
SHOOT EVERY BUSH!!
THE BUSH-ES!!

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DAMN ...
WHAT IS ATTACK-ING US !?
IS IT REALLY ONE MAN!?
GYA AA!!
AHH!
SFX: RUSTLE RUSTLE
WHICH SIDE WILL HE COME FROM ...!?
ba-bump
WHERE IS HE...?
ba bump
SFX: BA-BUMP

KEEP YOUR EYES ON ONLY YOUR OWN SECTION ...!
SFX GA-GUMP
POSI-TION MEN ON ALL SIDES!
WHAT SIDE WILL HE COME FROM ...!?
SFX GASP

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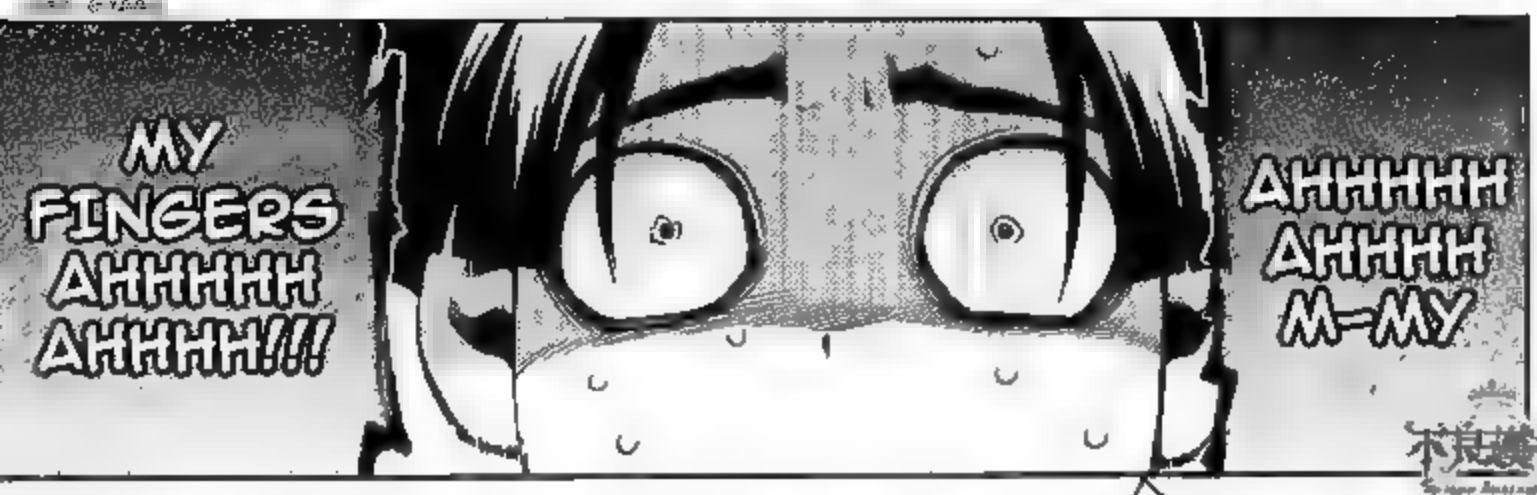
HOLD ON A SECOND, SHIRMP!
HEY!
ICHIMURA-SENPAI!
...SEEMS LIKE HE'S DONE.
ドドド

SURE ENOUGH, THE SHINI-GAMI CAME ...
HERE TO EZO ...!

UH .....
AH ...
.....

HA
UH ...
UH ..
DAMN IT...
HA
HA ...
.....
WH-WHAT!? LET GO!!
AH!
HUH ...?
NO WAY... SENPAI...

PLEASE STOP!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME
THEN GET IT OVER WITH...!!
NO
...



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HOW IS
HOW

IT'S AS THOUGH
HE'S AN ONI……!!!

PEACE MAKER 鐵 北上編

NANAE CHRONO PRESENTS

弐

序 其の弐

●最新単行本第⑦巻＆ドラマCD付限定版＆
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黒乃奈々絵

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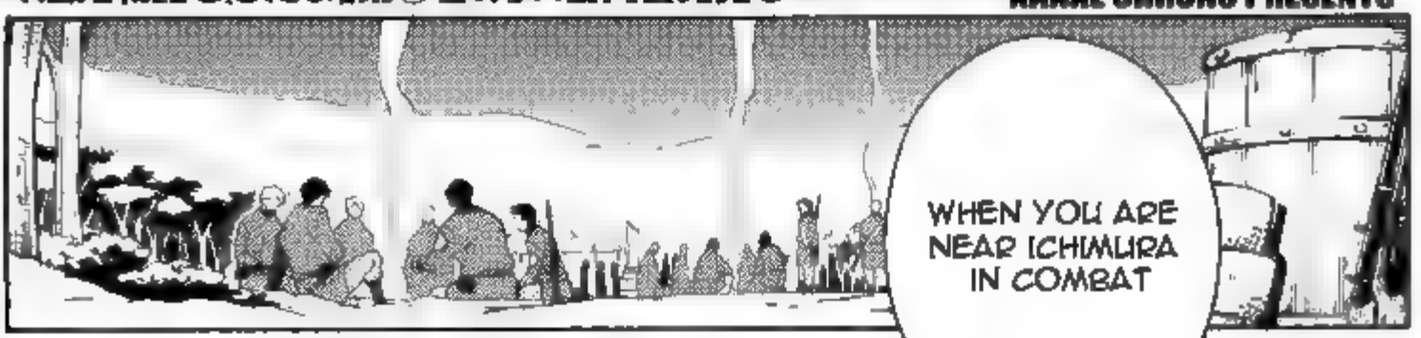


WHEN YOU ARE NEAR ICHIMURA IN COMBAT

YOU DIE WHETHER YOU ARE AN ENEMY OR AN ALLY.

SPEAKING MORE SPECIFICALLY

ANYONE WITHIN A 10-FOOT RADIUS OF HIM IS SHOT THROUGH THE HEAD AND KILLED.

EVEN THOUGH THE ENEMY WASN'T SHOT DEAD BY HIM, AS YOU SAW,

HE CUT OFF ALL OF THE FINGERS ON BOTH OF THEIR HANDS.

HE MADE THEM SEE HELL AND TASTE THE HUMILIATION AND PAIN OF IT.

……

IT'S SO CRUEL OF THE CAPTAIN TO MAKE YOU HANG OUT WITH A GUY LIKE THAT
U-UM...
HE'S ALSO CRUEL AND RUTHLESS!
THAT SELF-CENTERED PAGE IS TOTALLY RIDICULOUS!
SHINSENGUMI MEMBER
NOMURA RISABURO

T/N A SHINIGAMI IS A JAPANESE GOD OF DEATH

I BELIEVE THAT... ICHIMURA IS ALSO A VICTIM
ICHIMURA ACTS BY HIMSELF, KILLING EVERY-ONE ——…
WELL, SPEAK-ING HON-ESTLY
AND JUST HOW MIGHT THAT BE?

IF THAT WAS HIS INTENTION FROM THE BEGINNING, HE WOULD HAVE FINISHED EVERY-THING AND SHOT THEM DEAD RIGHT THERE.
PLEASE CONSIDER THIS:
TECHNIQUE IS TO SHOOT DIRECTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREHEAD...

HIS SHOTS ARE LIMITED TO ONLY "THE ONE HAND THAT ENABLES THE SURVIVAL OF THE ENEMY...!"
SHORT ATTACKS AIMED MAINLY AT THE ENEMY'S FINGERS ON ONE OF THEIR HANDS
ICHIMURA-DONO'S ATTACKS ARE ALWAYS

THIS WAY THE ENEMY DOESN'T LOSE HIS LIFE AND HE STILL CAN'T USE A GUN OR SWORD!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT SWEET CRAP, MIYOSHI!!
THE "SURVIVAL OF THE ENEMY!?"

THAT'S...
BUT YOU'RE ONLY TEASING HIM!
AHH~ THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN...
MIYOSHI MUST REALLY BE FEARLESS...
HIS POWER IS BLATANTLY OUR ADVANTAGE!
FINE!
TAKE AWAY OUR TRUMP CARD!
HE'S A "GOOD GUY" BUT...
WHATEVER THE CASE... ICHIMURA...
IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN JUST APPROACH THEM!
IT'S A PROBLEM THAT HE'S ALWAYS BY CAPTAIN HIJIKATA'S SIDE!!
THE "SHINIGAMI" IS HIJIKATA'S CHOICE OF PARTNER TO KILL OTHERS
IN FACT, THE CAPTAIN'S SNIPER WAS ONCE...!
THIS IS LIKE YAMAGUCHI ALL OVER AGAIN...

T/N I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHAT NOMURA IS TALKING ABOUT HERE. THE "YAMAGUCHI" HE'S REFERRING TO MAY BE SAITO HAJIME, AS "YAMAGUCHI JIRO" WAS HIS PSEUDONYM WHEN HE LEFT TO JOIN AIZU. IT'S ALSO VERY LIKELY THAT THE "SNIPER" WAS SAITO BEFORE TETSU.

A-AH
I-ICHI-MURA

TAMURA
!
HIJIKATA-SAN IS CALLING.
GO ALONE.

VIGIL...!?
THE FACES OF EVERYONE'S "AH ——…" IS HAUNTING ME...!
...WHAT THE?
PER-HAPS...
THIS TIME I HAVE TO BE ALONE...?
パチ…
パチ…
SO THAT'S?
WHAT DO YOU THINK? TODAY, WATCH ICHI-MURA'S BATTLE.
AL-THOUGH
THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE LEFT ALIVE IS THE SAME AS PEOPLE WITH FINGERS CUT OFF
YOU "WANT TO SEE THE ONI" RIGHT?
……
JUST... GREAT
YES... THAT'S

...BUT ASIDE FROM "FINGERS BEING CUT OFF"
HIS JOB IS NOT TO "KILL."
THEN HE'S NOT THE... "SHINIGAMI"...?
I HEARD THE SITUATION FROM NOMURA-SAN
HA
DAMN NOMURA...
captain
captain
THAT MAN'S LIKE A GOOD OLDER BROTHER. CARING YET MALICIOUS.
DID YOU SUCCEED IN TEARING HIM AWAY FROM ICHIMURA...
TAMURA GEN'NOSUKE
GIVE A LIFE BY BEING AWARE OF THE ABSURD
YES!

T/N ONCE AGAIN, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HIJIKATA IS TALKING ABOUT WHEN HE WANTS NOMURA TO BE REMOVED FROM TETSU.

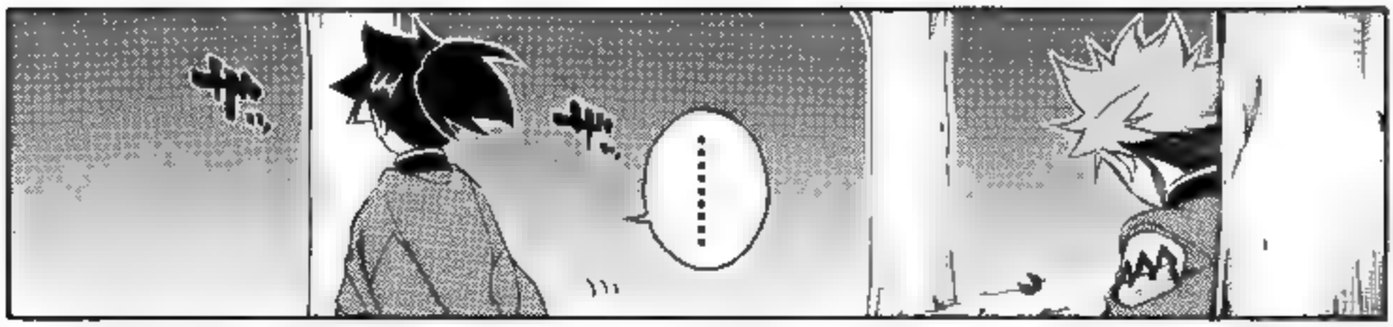
"PROTECT"!?
...EH?
E-EH?
!?
AND STARTING TOMORROW, FROM A DISTANCE WITHIN A 10-FOOT RADIUS...
STARTING TOMORROW WE BAKUFU FORCES
WILL SPLIT IN TWO AND HEAD SOUTH ON DIFFERENT ROUTES.
I WILL LEAD THE FIRST UNIT AS COMMANDER OF THE BAKUFU ARMY, NOT THE SHINSENGUMI.
YOU WILL PROTECT ICHIMURA TETSUNOSUKE.
WE'LL BE SEPARATED FOR A FEW DAYS
SO...
PLEASE WAIT A MINUTE!
I HAVE TO...
PROTECT?
NO... I MEAN...

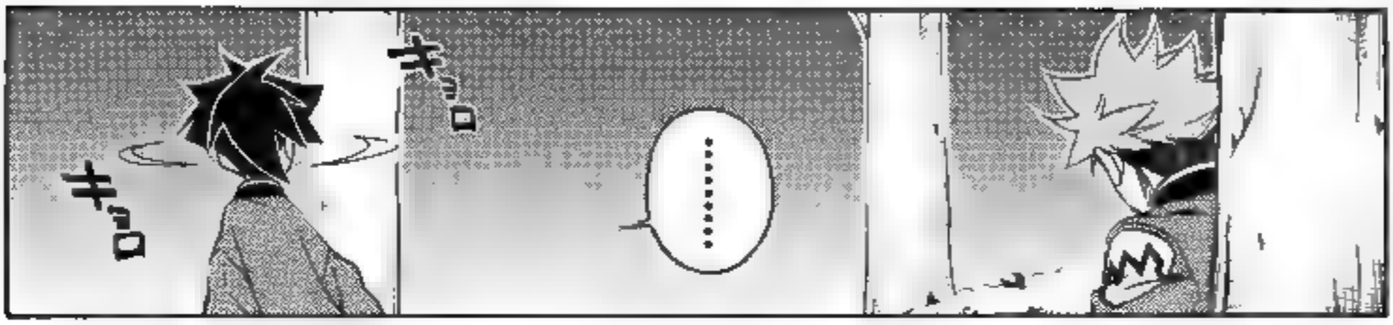
ANYONE WITHIN A TEN FOOT RADIUS

I DONT WANT TO BE SHOT BY THE SHINI-GAMI!!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!
...LISTEN, TAMURA.
ISN'T EVEN HELPING US!!
THE SHO-GUN...
YOU PROBABLY WON'T BE SHOT.
THE SHINIGAMI WILL NOT SHOOT YOU.
BUT I HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT
THIS IS ONLY MY GUESS,
...HUH?

WH...WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
...I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING AFTERWARDS
IF YOU'LL AGREE TO THIS
AND SO, IF YOU TRUST ME ——...
TAMURA
ICHIMURA
PLEASE PROTECT
ONLY YOU CAN DO THIS.

.....
ANTI-CLIMACTIC, HUH?
IT'S SUCH AN UNPLEASANT ORDER, ISNT IT?
.....
THE RUMORS ACTUALLY DON'T HOLD VERY TRUE
NOT REALLY

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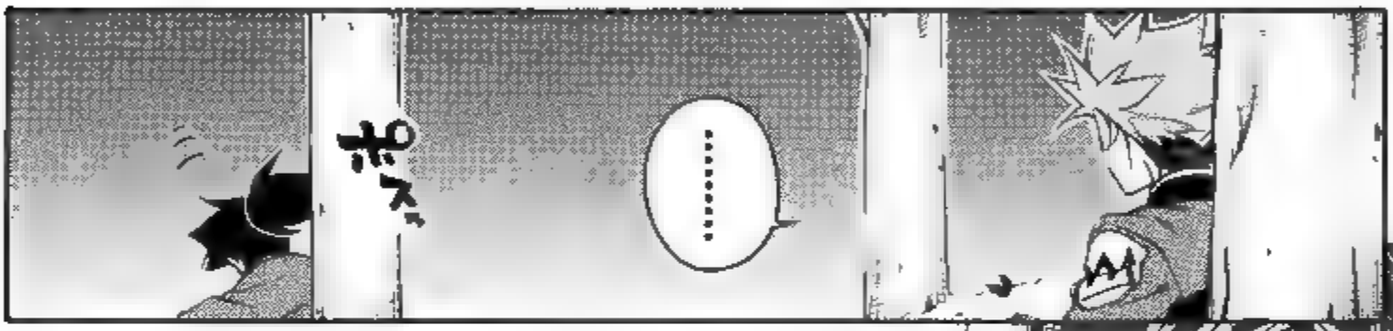
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I CAN SIT WHERE EVER I WANT, BUT
I HAVE TO STAY WITHIN TEN FEET OF YOU, SENPAI.
...HEY
NOMURA AND THE OTHERS ARE OVER THERE...
THIS IS UNNECESSARY, HIJIKATA-SAN!!
OH...
I KNOW THAT.

...THE NEXT DAY
JUST AS HE TOLD ME, THE GROUP HIJIKATA LED
LEFT THE SHINSENGUMI UNDER THE CONTROL OF ANOTHER TEAM.
WELL, I'LL BE ALRIGHT AS LONG AS I STICK WITH ICHIMURA-SENPAI...
THE SHINSEN-GUMI WAS INCORPORATED NTO THE MAIN ARMY, WHICH WAS LED SOMEHOW BY OOTORI.
WE DECIDED TO TAKE THE MAIN ROAD SOUTH TO OUR DESTINATION.
STRATEGIC POINTS IN THE DEFENSE OF HAKODATE PREFECTURE NOW BECAME OUR ENEMIES
THE DESTI-NATION OF THE MAIN FORCE AND HIJIKATA'S TEAM WAS THE SAME...
AMONG THEM WAS THE "HAKODATE MAGISTRATE OFFICE" AND A BEAUTIFUL FIVE-POINTED STAR-SHAPED CASTLE
ITS USUAL NAME...

T/N AFTER THEY ARRIVED IN EZO, THE OLD BAKUFU ARMY BEGAN TO SEIZE KEY FORTIFICATIONS TO PLACE EZO UNDER THEIR CONTROL

"SORYOKAKU"
ENEMY ATTACK!
IT'S AN ENEMY ATTACK!!
SCOUT FROM THE RIGHT!!
...THEY'RE REALLY HERE!
I'M COMING~!

THOSE WHO ARE READY MOVE TO THE FRONT!
PREPARE A LINE!
キラッ
...SENPAI?
AH!

SINCE IT'S
ME
I WON'T DIE...!
HUH!?
OVER THERE!?
HEY HEY GEN'NOSUKE! KEEP UP!!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT YOU'LL DIE!?
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
AH
AH

SHORT ATTACKS AIMED MAINLY
AT THE ENEMY'S FINGERS ON ONE HAND
ICHIMURA-DONO'S ATTACKS ARE ALWAYS
IT'S JUST LIKE HOW MIYOSHI-SAN SAID...!
IT'S TRUE...!

IT'S LIMITED TO ONLY THE "ONE HAND THAT ENABLES THE SURVIVAL OF THE ENEMY!"
ICHIMURA-SENPAI
DOESN'T KILL...!!
THERE IS NO MOVEMENT YET BUT...
THEN THE "SHINIGAMI"... THE SNIPER IS SOMEONE ELSE!
SOMEWHERE IN THIS SNOW FIELD...!

AAAHHH HHHH!!
MIYOSHI-SAAN!!!

NO
...UGH
NO
N...
...UGH
HA...
DIE QUIETLY!!

STILL
YOU ARE
AAH

THIS IS...!!
"SHINIGAMI"...!!

FROM THERE...!!
THE BULLETS ALL FLEW FROM ONE DIRECTION...
.....

!?
I AM PREPARED.
THIS TIME...

WHY IN THE WORLD AM I PROTECTING THIS PERSON?

UGH...
AAH...
HAN'NO-SUKE-SAMAA...
MIYO-SHI...
MIYOSHI...!!
YOU WERE CLOSE TO MIYOSHI...!!
YOU...
IT'S YOUR FAULT. A SHINI-GAMI MUST POSSESS YOU...
BASTARD...

AND WHAT HAPPENED TO TAMURA!?
NOMURA-SAN.!!
BASTARD! YOU LEFT HIM...
YOU LET THAT LITTLE KID DIE...!
...I'M ALIVE
AND I AM NOT A KID!!

T... TAMURA!!
N-NO WAY YOU...!
HOW ARE YOU ALIVE...!?
EVERYONE PLEASE LISTEN!!
ICHIMURA-SENPAI... APPROACHED MIYOSHI-SAN IN ORDER TO SAVE HIM BECAUSE HE WAS SURROUNDED BY THE ENEMY!!
WHEN THEY CORNERED HIM, THE SHINIGAMI HAD NOT YET ARRIVED...!
WH...!
SENPAI WAS NOT THE PERSON WHO KILLED HIM!
IT'S OBVIOUS IF YOU LOOK AROUND!
THE SHINI-GAMI...
WAS A SNIPER FROM OVER THERE...!

?
?
WH-WHAT IS IT SENPAI? YOU'RE TICKLING ME...
ハア
ハア..

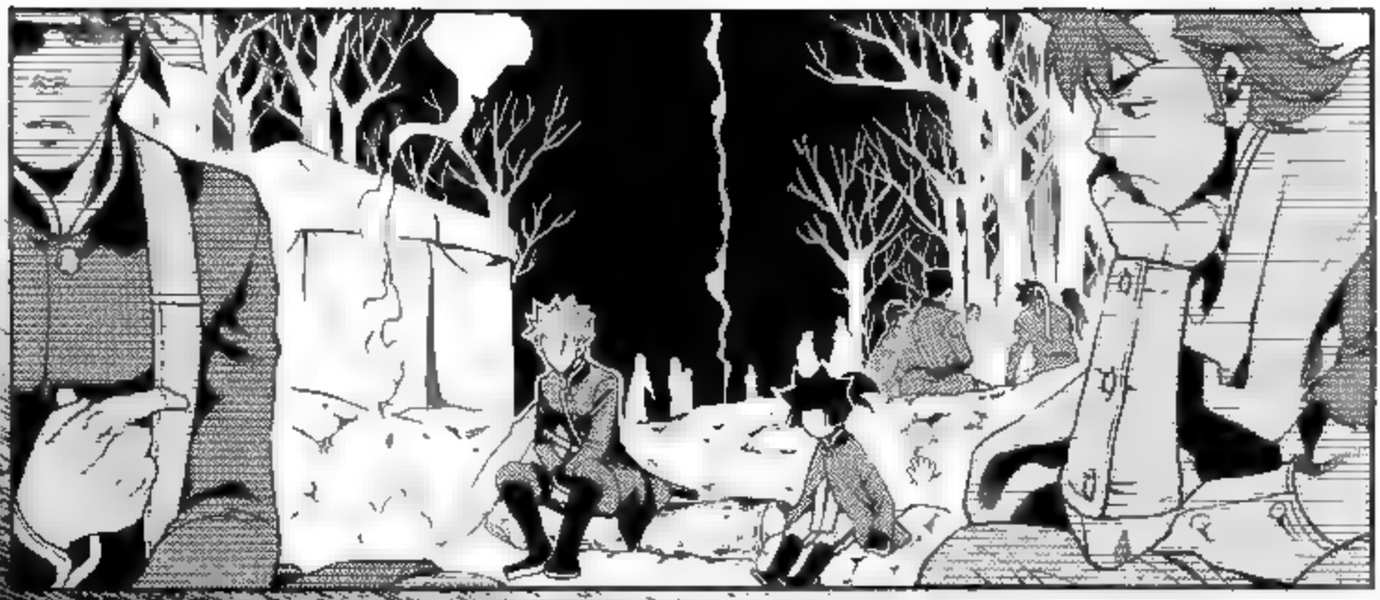
ハア
ハア..
?

... YOU REALLY

HONEST-LY...
HONEST-LY
YOU WEREN'T SHOT

YOU...!
YOU'RE... ALIVE...?

YOU'RE ALIVE...!
ALIVE...
UGH... YOU...
"I BELIEVE THAT... ICHIMURA IS ALSO A VICTIM."
パチ..
パチ..



DO YOU UNDER-STAND, TAMURA?
.....

THEREFORE HE WOULD NOT WANT TO SHOOT YOU, WHO LOOKS LIKE ICHIMURA
HIS IDENTITY IS PROBABLY THE SHINI-GAMI

HAS FINALLY DECIDED TO "PROTECT HIMSELF."
AT LEAST THAT ASSHOLE OF A SHINIGAMI
WELL,
DOES HE KNOW ABOUT THIS...?
SENPAI...

OF COURSE, HIS SYMPATHY DEFINITELY DOESN'T GUARANTEE US
BUT EITHER WAY, ABOUT THE BATTLE...
"DEFEND"...?
WE CAN ONLY DO THIS ONCE
BUT YOU WILL SURVIVE WITHIN TEN FEET OF ICHIMURA
THAT WAY...
THE HEART OF ICHIMURA, WHICH IS CLOSED EVEN TO ME
MIGHT BE ABLE TO OPEN TO YOU...!
.....
...UM

FROM NOW ON I'LL STAY NEAR ICHIMURA-SENPAI'S SIDE
.....
OH, BUT PLEASE DON'T MIND ME IN COMBAT
I DON'T WANT TO BE A HINDRANCE...
YOU ARE A HINDRANCE
YOU'RE TOO MUCH OF A BOTHER.
EVEN RIGHT NOW.
む…!
READ THE ATMOS-PHERE
WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE THE OTHERS WILL THINK IF I LET YOU, THE YOUNGEST OF US ALL, DIE?
I'D BE ISOLATED FROM EVERYONE ELSE...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT!
BECAUSE I SURELY CAN'T DIE!
AS LONG I CONTINUE TO BE WITH SENPAI
BEFORE LONG, NO ONE WILL SAY THAT A SHINIGAMI POSSESSES YOU

...MIYOSHI-SAN
CAPTAIN HIJIKATA AND
YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY SO MUCH

FOR THE SAKE OF NOT KILLING OTHERS.
HIS OWN HEART
TO KILL

WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO YOU?

NEXT CHAPTER OUT ON (2/25)

黒乃奈々絵
NANAE CHRONO PRESENTS
第参拾弐話 朝
MORNING
最新単行本第⑦巻
5月14日発売決定。
ドラマCD付限定版も同時発売。
PEACE MAKER鐵 北上篇
NANAE CHRONO PRESENTS
PEACE MAKER鐵
クロガネ
●新釈桃太郎伝奇「殲鬼戦記ももたま」第9巻 5月14日同日発売●

GOING BACK ELEVEN MONTHS OF TIME...

SFX SONG

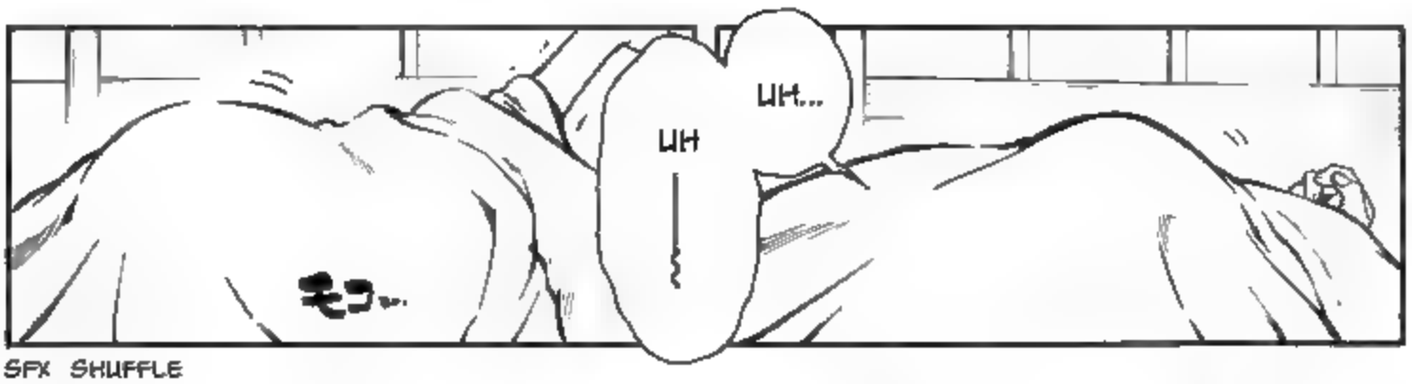
SFX SONG

※ THIS IS A FICTIONAL STORY BASED ON HISTORY

SFX SLAP SLAP
パン パン!
ん
パ
キ

ICHIMURA TETSUNOSUKE
...ALRIGHT!
ゴーン…
ゴーン…
SFX
GONG
GONG
...EXCUSE ME
すっ
SFX. STEP

I'VE BROUGHT COAL.
……
GOOD MORNING, OKITA-SAN.
YAMAZAKI SUSUMU


UH...
UH
モコ…

SFX SHUFFLE

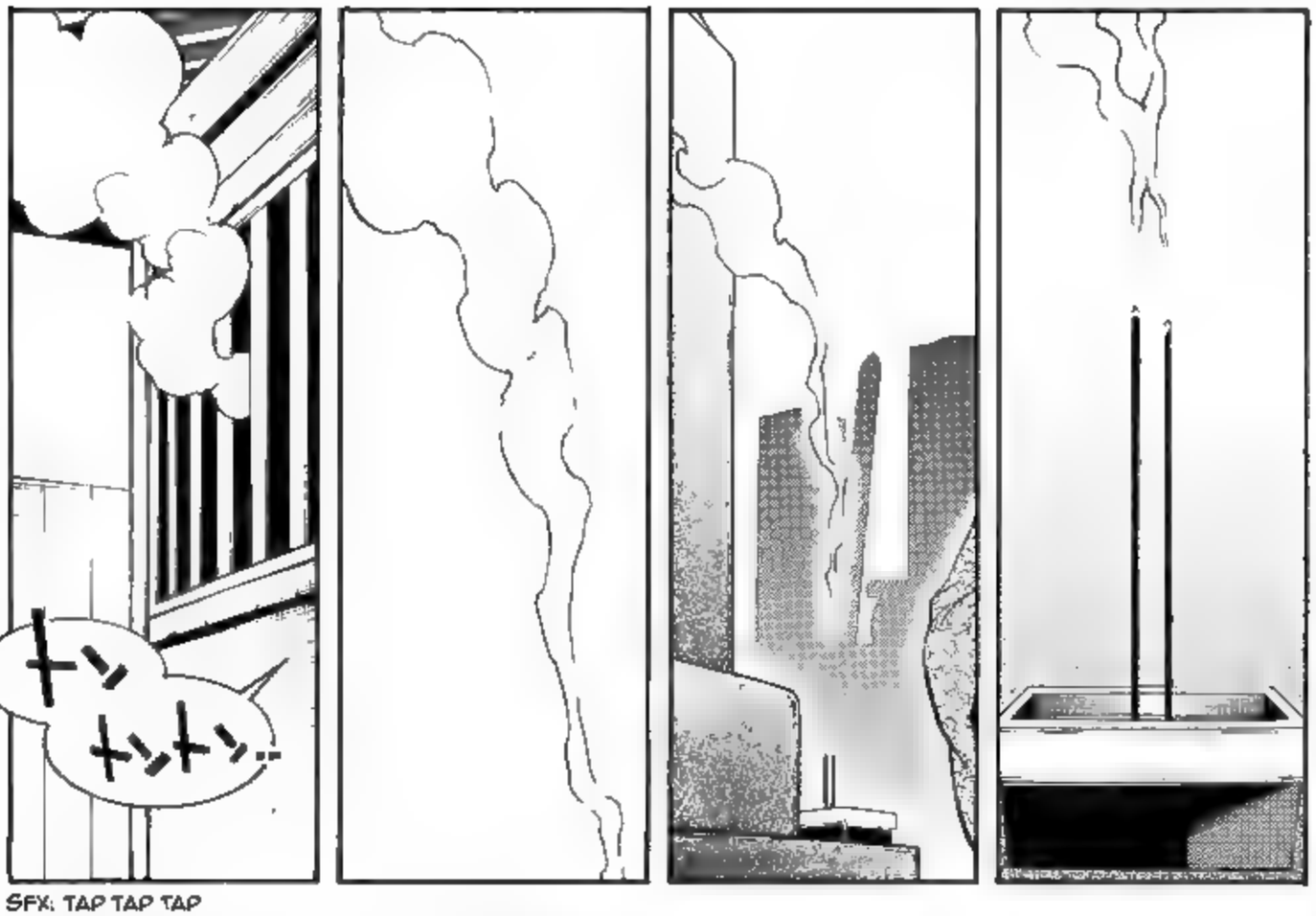
TH-THANK YOU, YAMAZAKI-SAN.
TH...
……

IT'S COLD THIS MORNING---
OKITA SOUJI

"PIG" !?
SORRY...
...I SEE YOU SNEAKED IN A VISITOR WITHOUT PERMISSION...
THAT PIG.

I ACCIDENT-ALLY ENDED UP OUTSIDE!
AH SORRY!
OKITA-SAN
DESPITE BEING RELIEVED OF DUTY AND IN SUCH A STATE
YOU STILL BREAK THROUGH MY TRAPS EVERY DAY...
不衛生でしょ。
抱いて寝るとあったかいんだよー

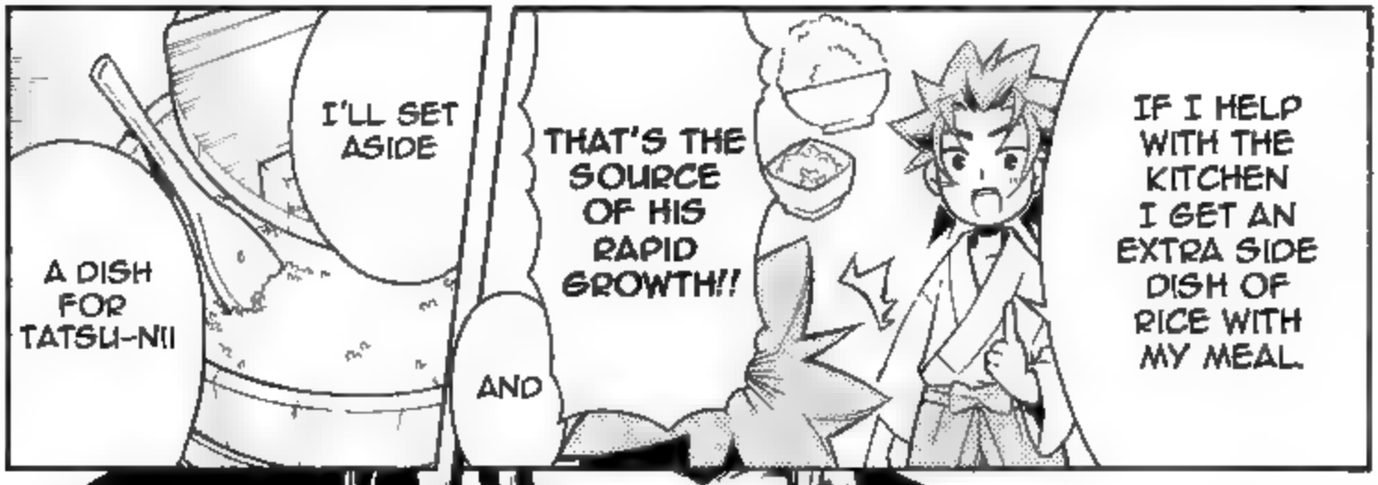
IT FEELS LIKE IT WAS GONE IN SECONDS
THIS YEAR WENT BY FAST IN SEVERAL WAYS
YES
SO FAST-
HA……
IT'S DECEMBER ALREADY-
...SINCE THEN
MORE THAN TEN DAYS HAVE PASSED...
……
...FAST
HUH...



SFX: TAP TAP TAP

SHINPAT-SAN! SANO!
GOOD MORNING~!
OH~ TETSU-CHAN, GOOD MORNING~!
LET'S DO OUR BEST IN MORNING PRACTICE IN THE COLD~!
WHY IS EVERYONE UP SO EARLY TODAY?
SFX: TWEET
DON'T WE ALWAYS LEAVE AT 10:00 IN THE MORNING?
EH~ IT'S JUST MINOR BUSINESS.
BY THE WAY, TETSU-CHAN
WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US FOR PRACTICE? IT'S BEEN SO LONG.
AH~~~...
NAGAKURA SHINPACHI

I HAVE TO CHOP SOME MORE FIRE WOOD~!
HUH? WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
I WOULD LOVE TO DO THAT WITH YOU GUYS BUT...
HM?


I'LL SET ASIDE
A DISH FOR TATSU-NII
AND
THAT'S THE SOURCE OF HIS RAPID GROWTH!!
IF I HELP WITH THE KITCHEN I GET AN EXTRA SIDE DISH OF RICE WITH MY MEAL.

BUT I DON'T BLAME HIM, SINCE YOU ARE SO PRECIOUS TO HIM AND WERE ABOUT TO BE KILLED.
...I HEARD
HE BECAME SLIGHTLY ODD AFTER THE INCIDENT.
HARADA SANOSUKE

HE EVEN WORKS THROUGH THE NIGHT LIKE HE USED TO.
AND IS ABLE TO WORK JUST FINE.
BUT HE'S IMPROVED LATELY,

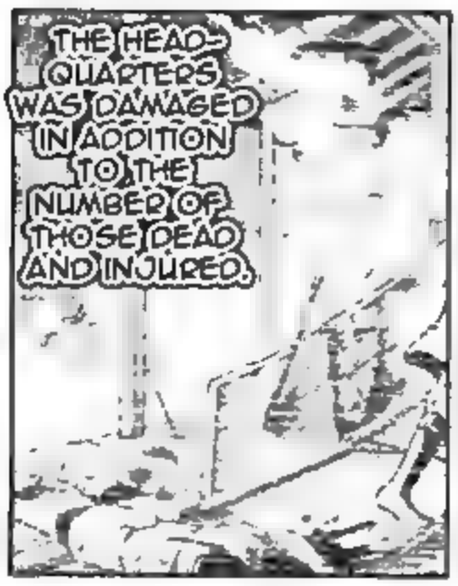
HE'LL RETURN TO NORMAL SOON.
SFX: PAT
YOU JUST HAVE TO CHEERFULLY LAUGH YOUR PROBLEMS AWAY!
IT'LL BE ALRI~GHT!!
ICHI-MURA! WE NEED MORE FIRE-WOOD!!
OKAY!!
!
...RIGHT!
.....
SFX: HEHE

A FAINT SCENT OF INCENSE CAME FROM THE TWO OF THEM

TEN DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE THEN.

"ABURA NOKOJI INCIDENT"
THE SHINSENGUMI KILLED SEVERAL OF THE GORYO EJI,
INCLUDING ITO KASHITARO AND TODO HEISUKE

MOREOVER


THE HEADQUARTERS WAS DAMAGED IN ADDITION TO THE NUMBER OF THOSE DEAD AND INJURED.

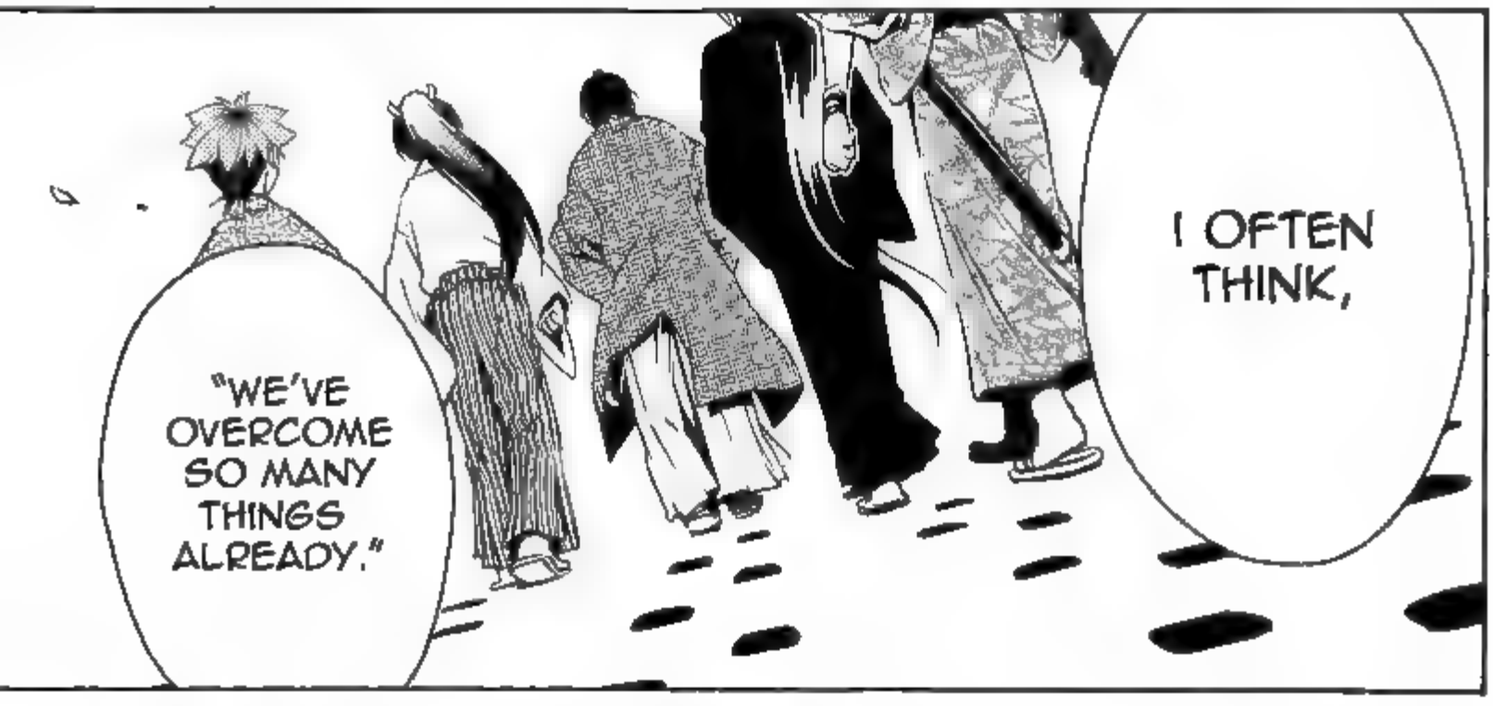
THE SHINSENGUMI, WHICH HAD ALSO FALLEN INTO A TRAP, SUFFERED A LARGE BLOW

IF YOU PAY TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO THE WOUNDS OF OTHERS
HM...
.....
ICHIMURA TETSUNOSUKE.
YOU ARE APT TO FORGET ABOUT YOUR OWN

SAITO-SAN! GOOD MORNING~!
I'm so hungry!
GOOD MORNING.
Food!
バタ-バタ..
...MORNING PREPARATIONS SEEM TO BE PROCEEDING REGULARLY.
DO YOU WANT TO EAT TOGETHER?
SAITO HAJIME
SFX SIP
ガブっ
ガブっ

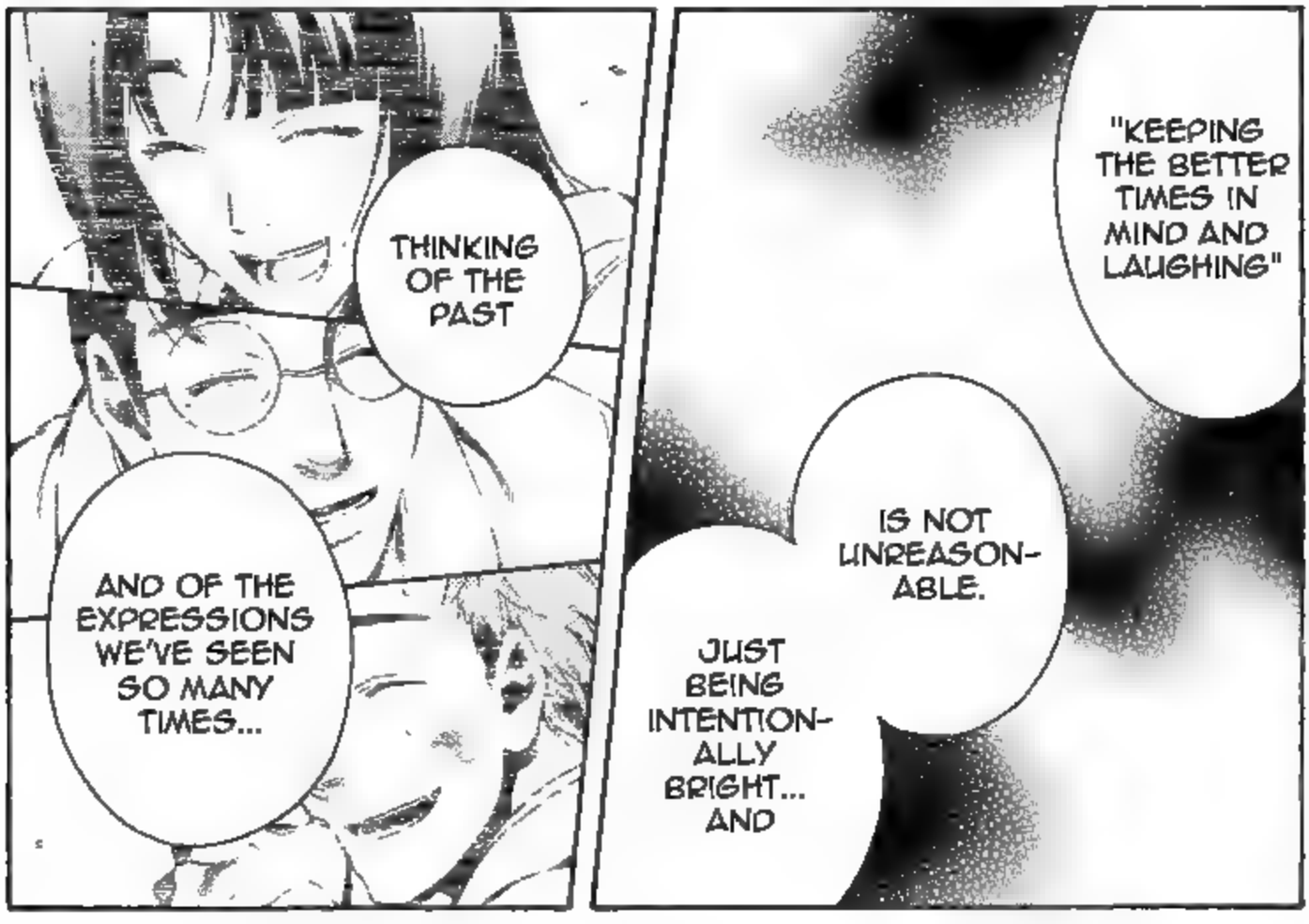
THE EMOTIONS ATTACHED TO THE FRAGMENTS
HM?
...AND
DEEP-FRIED TOFU-!

JUST BY CHANGING YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON SOMETHING, YOU CAN MAKE IT ALL WORK OUT, NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL.
SOME PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO BE STOPPED.
HUH
I GUESS


"WE'VE OVERCOME SO MANY THINGS ALREADY."
I OFTEN THINK,

.....
HM...
カチャ

I'VE COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT
...BUT
SOME-HOW

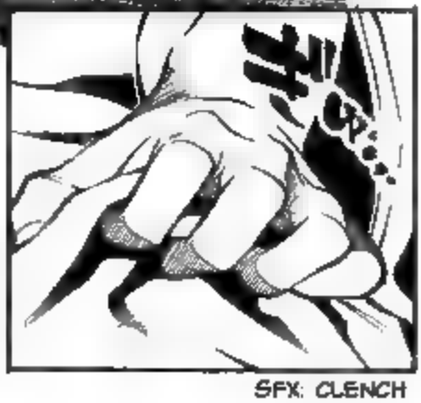

THINKING OF THE PAST
AND OF THE EXPRESSIONS WE'VE SEEN SO MANY TIMES...
"KEEPING THE BETTER TIMES IN MIND AND LAUGHING"
IS NOT UNREASON-ABLE.
JUST BEING INTENTION-ALLY BRIGHT... AND

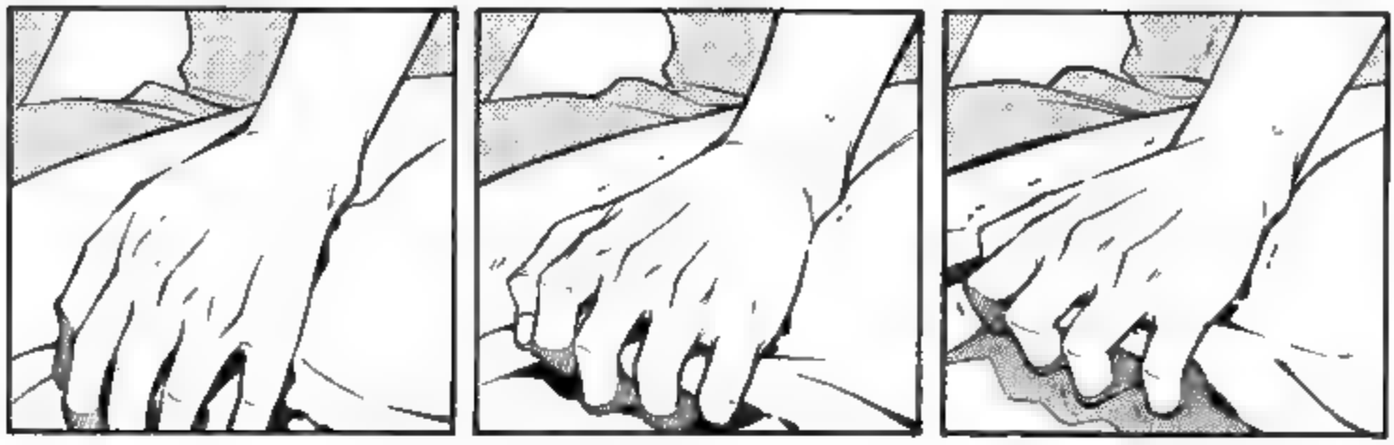
YOU...
IT WILL BE BECAUSE YOU USE THAT SORT OF EXPRESSION
PER-HAPS...

STILL APPEAR SO BRIGHTLY.
THAT EVEN WITHOUT STRIVING, THE DEAD

IN PARTIC-ULAR
SAKA-MOTO RYOMA.

WAS KILLED BY SUZU...
THAT OLD MAN...


SFX: CLENCH



I'M.....
NOT SURE...
MYSELF

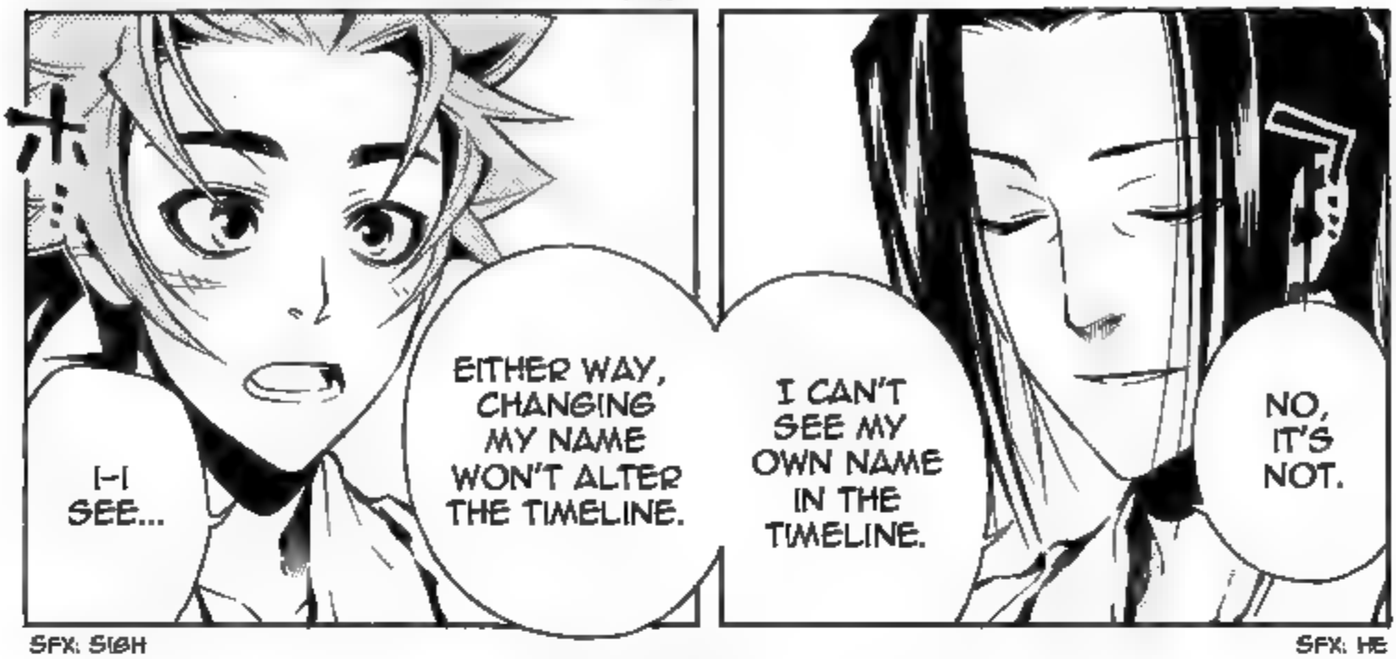
DO I...
I HATE SUZU...?

HATE...
NO, PROB-ABLY
THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO HATE HIM.....
I'M SUR-PRISED,
HOW-EVER

HE SIMPLY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO FUNCTION WITHOUT THAT RELIANCE.
HIS PAST WAS ONCE TIED TO HATRED.

WILL HE "FORGIVE" YOU?
WILL YOU FORGIVE ME FOR AIDING THE ENEMY...
.....
WILL YOU "FORGIVE"
HIM?

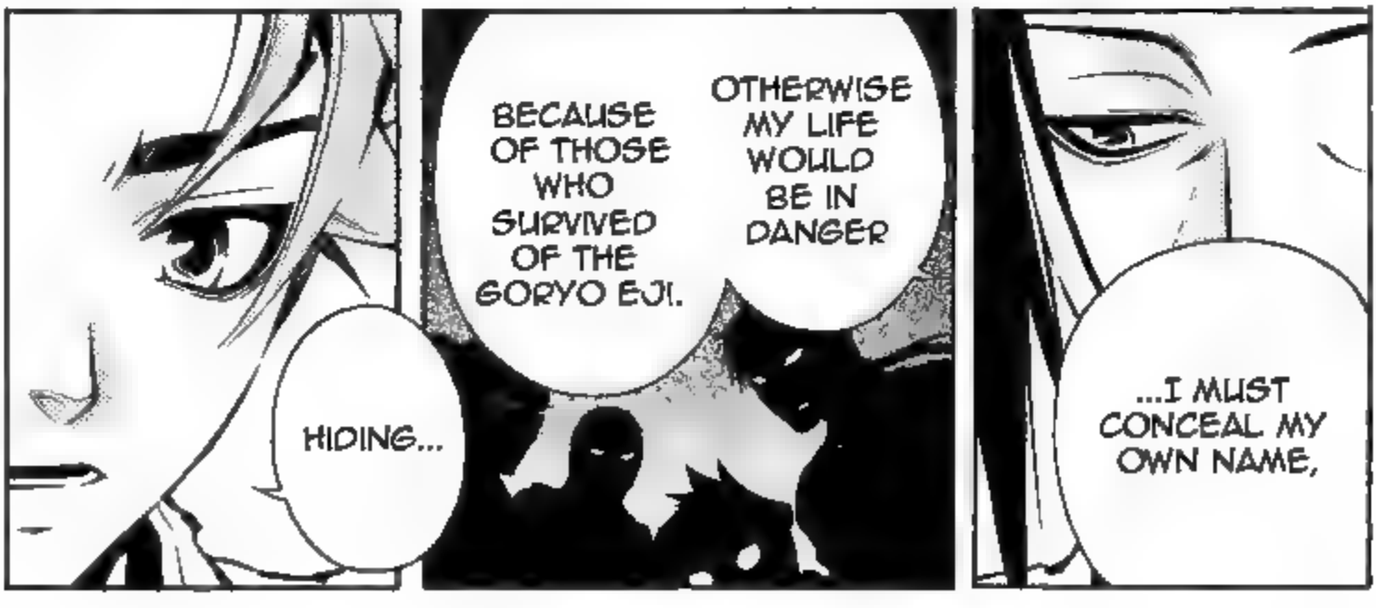
SAITO -SAN HAS A SPECIAL ABILITY.
.....
WHETHER I KNEW OR NOT... I DON'T BLAME YOU.
YOU'RE NOT A BAD PERSON.
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. I'LL DISREGARD THE RULES.
ALONG WITH THE DATE THAT THEY ARE TO DIE ON...
HE CAN SEE THE TIMELINE OF THE DEAD
HE KNOWS THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO ARE CERTAIN TO DIE IN THE FUTURE ...
THAT CHANGE... IS IT RELATED TO THE TIMELINE?
IT'S "YAMA-GUCHI JIRO"
BY THE WAY, SAITO-SAN, WHAT DID YOU CHANGE YOUR NAME TO?
HMM.



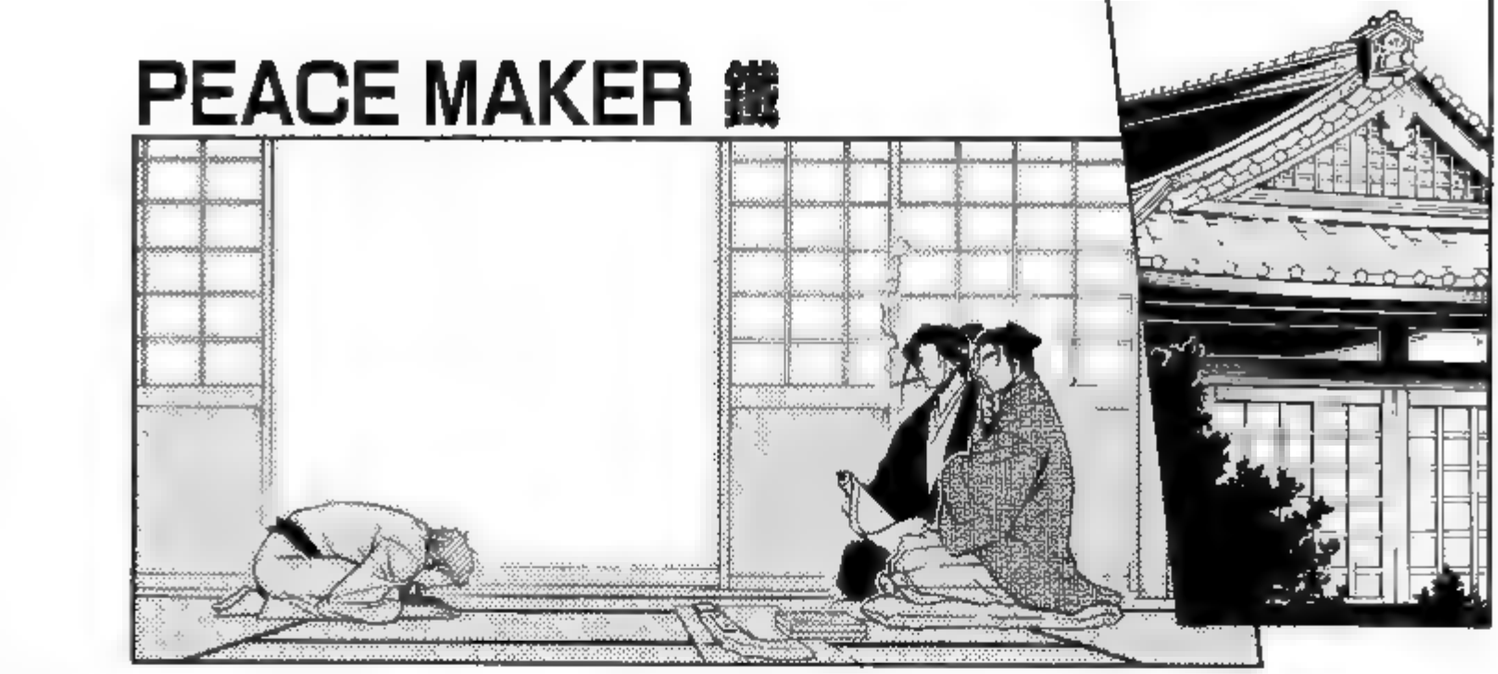
SFX: SIGH

SFX: HE

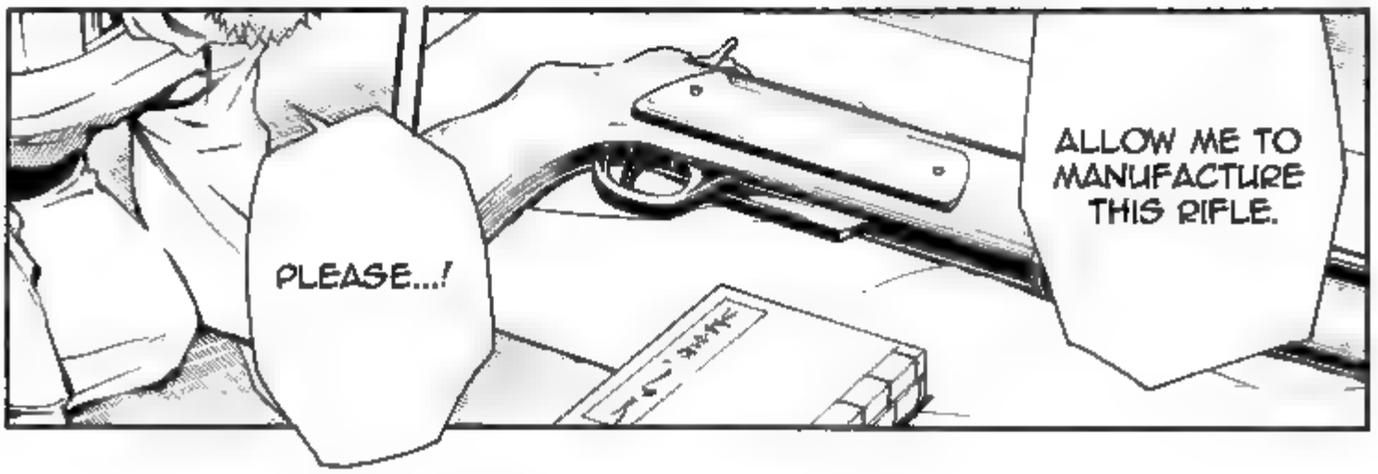
THAT NAME IS SIMPLY A PSEUDONYM FOR THE MAN WHO "TRANSFERRED FROM THE GORYO EJI TO THE SHINSENGUMI"
"BECOMING A NEW PERSON" IS A NICE IDEA BUT...



...BY THE WAY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING TODAY?
TODAY MARKS THE DAY THAT PATROLS RETURN TO NORMAL.
YEAH! I'M GOING TO SHIMABARA TO SEE SAYA.
I RECEIVED A LETTER SAYING THAT SHE WAS WORRIED.
... BE CAREFUL ALONG THE WAY
THE REMNANTS OF THE GORYO EJI ARE ABOUT.
THAT NIGHT, SUZU LOST
SOME-THING PRECIOUS TO HIM...
SHOULD YOU APPEAR BEFORE HIM,
HE WILL BECOME AN "ONI OF REVENGE"...



PLEASE GIVE ME PERMISSION...
...I ASK OF YOU
HIJIKATA TOSHIZO
KONDO ISAMI


PLEASE...!
ALLOW ME TO MANUFACTURE THIS RIFLE.

ICHIMURA TATSUNOSUKE
ALTHOUGH I HEARD YOU PARTICIPATED IN THE RAID WITH THAT GUN...
WHAT A SURPRISE!
INITIALLY, IT WAS A HOBBY OF MINE.
I MADE NO REPORT OF IT WHATSOEVER.
BUT...
HAH
IT'S EVEN OF YOUR OWN DESIGN...!
THAT WAY YOU'LL ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO SHOOT IT...!

THIS IS A WEAPON THAT CAN GRANT US ALL THE ASSISTANCE WE NEED...!
I'M CONVINCED
IT DIVERTS FROM THE "MARCH RECORD" OF TWO YEARS AGO, BUT
RESEMBLES A "MODERN MILITARY"
HAVING A FEW RIFLES ON OUR FORMATION
...WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO, KONDO-SAN?
HMM...
A FOOL COULD HAVE TOLD YOU THAT.
WE CAN'T HAVE A RIFLE UNIT WITHOUT RIFLES.
THERE ARE VARIOUS THINGS TO THINK ABOUT
having rifles...
THE RIFLE IS AVAILABLE AT A REASONABLE PRICE

T/N THE "MARCH RECORD" WAS A DOCUMENT THAT EXPLAINED THE FORMATION OF THE TEN UNITS OF THE SHINSENGUMI.

SATSUMA AND CHOSHU ARE OUR ENEMIES...
ALSO, THE HIGHER-UPS NEVER ADDRESSED THE USE OF RIFLES.
SAMURAI WHO DO NOT USE SWORDS ARE NOT REMEMBERED.
...NO
HIS STYLE IS SO OLD-FASHIONED...
THAT'S...
THAT'S MY REASON, ICHIMURA TATSUNO-SUKE.
WE SHINSEN-GUMI ARE SWORDSMAN!
WE WILL CONTINUE THAT SPIRIT, AND NOT RELY ON SUCH "FIREARMS"...!
YOUR REQUEST IS DENIED.
HOWEVER, AS A SPECIAL CASE, I WILL ADMIT THE POSSESSION AND USE OF THIS RIFLE.

UH...
FOR NOW, USE IT AS SELF-DEFENSE.
HANDLE IT CAREFULLY.
...EARLIER YOU SAID IT WAS YOUR "HOBBY."
BUT REPORTING FIREARMS AT ONCE IS YOUR OBLIGATION.

SFX: PASS

...BUT THEN
IT'S NO GOOD...

YES?
PARDON THE INTRUSION.

SFX. THUD
B...
SFX: THUD

SFX. THUD
SFX. THUD

TRULY, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT
PLEASE FORGIVE MY RUDENESS BUT
?
WHAT'S WRONG, YAMAZAKI-KUN?

I ASK THIS ONCE MORE.
PLEASE GIVE US PERMISSION TO MANUFACTURE ICHIMURA'S RIFLE.

.....
I DESIRE AN ORDER OF RIFLES.
STRANGELY, EVEN AS A PHYSICIAN,

A PATIENT WHOM A PHYSICAN SHOULD EXAMINE IN A WAR IS NEVER PLACED IN A "SAFE BED."
THE BEST I CAN DO IS LIE THEM DOWN BASED ON THE MOMENT, EVEN IN THE MIDST OF THE FIGHT.
A RIFLE IS CAPABLE OF ATTACK EVEN WHILE MAINTAINING A POSITION SUITABLE FOR MY DUTIES.
THEREFORE, FOR YOUR CONSIDER-ATION...
I AM NOT A SAMURAI...!
.....
...WELL
I HAVE NO REASON TO REFUSE THAT.
CONGRAT-ULATIONS, ICHIMURA!

NEXT CHAPTER OUT ON (3/25)

CONTINUED IN THE NEXT PUBLIC KOSHAKU.

●新釈桃太郎伝奇「殲鬼戦記ももたま」第⑨巻 5月14日同日発売●

PEACE MAKER 鐵 北上篇

NANAE CHRONO PRESENTS

●単行本「PEACE MAKER 鐵」①～⑥巻 絶賛発売中●

HE~Y!
SAYA~~~!!
SORRY,
SORRY!
I MADE
YOU WORRY!
SFX. BLUSH

SFX: TURN
OH~ YOU'RE STILL...
YOU'RE STILL ANGRY, HUH?
.....
IT CAN'T BE HELPED~
SO MANY CRAZY EVENTS HAPPENED AND YOU DIDN'T CONTACT HER~.
HEY~ SAYAA
C'MON, JUST SMILE
I HAVE TO FIX THAT BAD MOOD OF YOURS...
WILL YOU FORGIVE ME IF I TAKE YOU SHOPPING?
...IT WAS MY BAD.
SFX: PAT

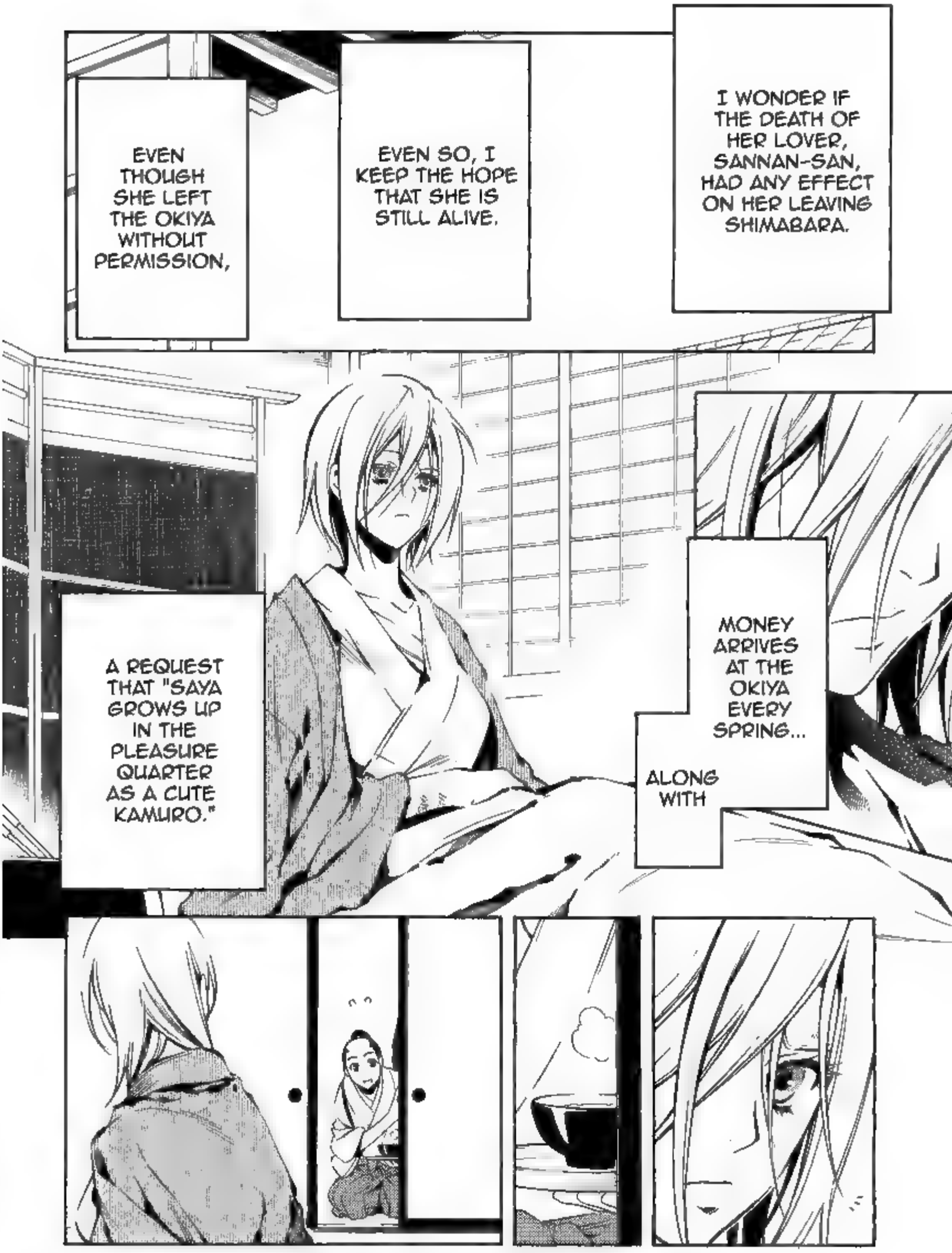
SFX: CLENCH

SFX: HUGS

CUTE
!!!
SFX HUG
... C
CUU...
SFX. WHISPER
ヒソ..
ヒソ ヒソ..
HM HM~ SO HE HAS A CRUSH ON HER~
THE YOUTHS OF TODAY ARE SO...
SFX FWIP
RIGHT!!
SHOULD HE REALLY BE ACTING LIKE THIS IN PUBLIC?
M-MY BAD, SAYA. I SUDDENLY...
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I...
WELL...
SAYA...
LET'S GO
SFX: NOD

T/N: STRICT RULES WERE APPLIED TO ENTERTAINERS THAT FORBID THEM, FOR THE MOST PART, FROM LEAVING THE PLEASURE QUARTERS.

T/N AN ANEJORO (OLDER SISTER) WAS A MENTOR TO YOUNG GIRLS TRAINING TO BECOME COURTESANS

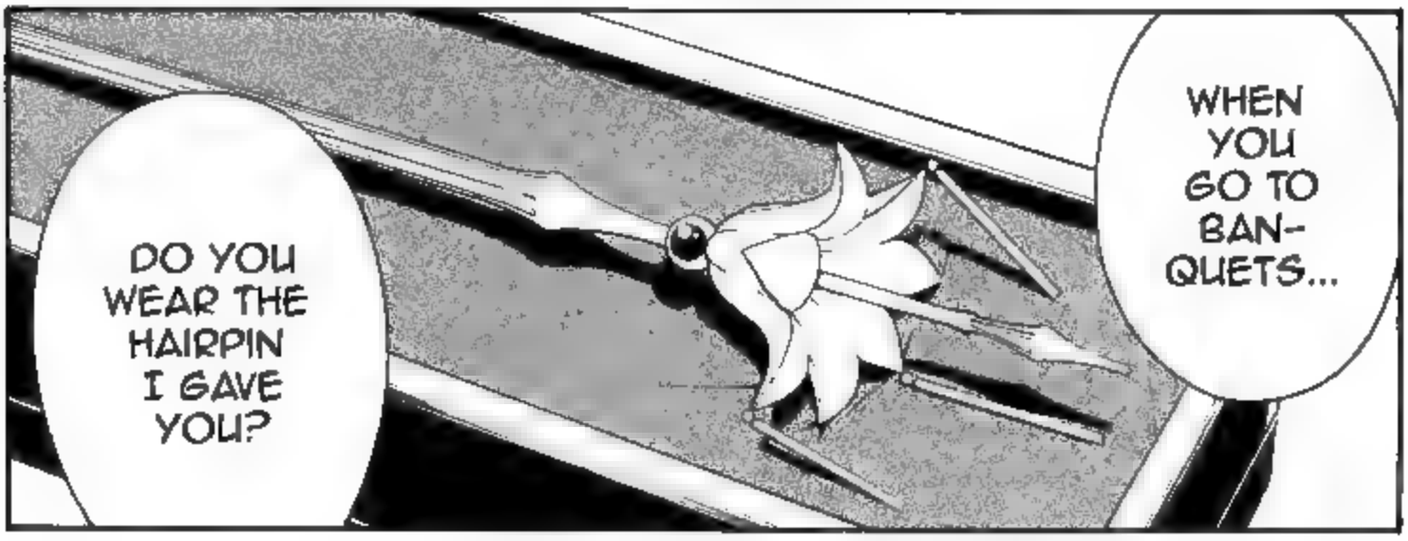

EVEN THOUGH SHE LEFT THE OKIYA WITHOUT PERMISSION,
EVEN SO, I KEEP THE HOPE THAT SHE IS STILL ALIVE.
I WONDER IF THE DEATH OF HER LOVER, SANNAN-SAN, HAD ANY EFFECT ON HER LEAVING SHIMABARA.
A REQUEST THAT "SAYA GROWS UP IN THE PLEASURE QUARTER AS A CUTE KAMURO."
MONEY ARRIVES AT THE OKIYA EVERY SPRING...
ALONG WITH

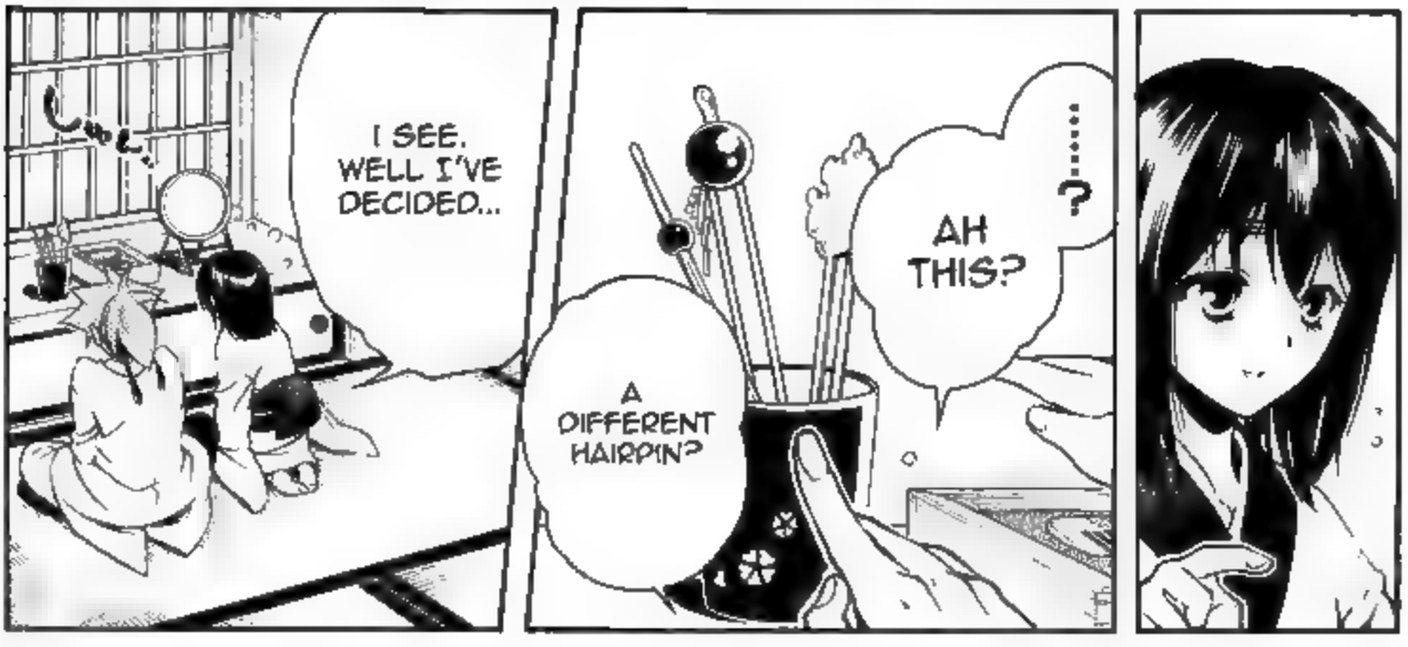
T/N AN OKIYA IS A BOARDING HOUSE FOR WOMEN OF THE PLEASURE QUARTERS
A KAMURO IS A PROSTITUTE'S ASSISTANT

...THAT WAY SHE COULD LIVE SOME-WHERE HEALTHY AND SAFE.

AH~!
THIS IS SAYA'S WIG?
SO YOUR HAIR ISN'T LONG ENOUGH TO STYLE YET?

SUSUMU ALSO HAS A FEMALE WIG~
!?
I PUT IT ON ONCE BUT THE HAIRSTYLE LOOKED WEIRD. IT WAS REALLY FUN THOUGH~!
!!?
SFX: SHOCK
HEY, UM...


WHEN YOU GO TO BAN-QUETS...
DO YOU WEAR THE HAIRPIN I GAVE YOU?

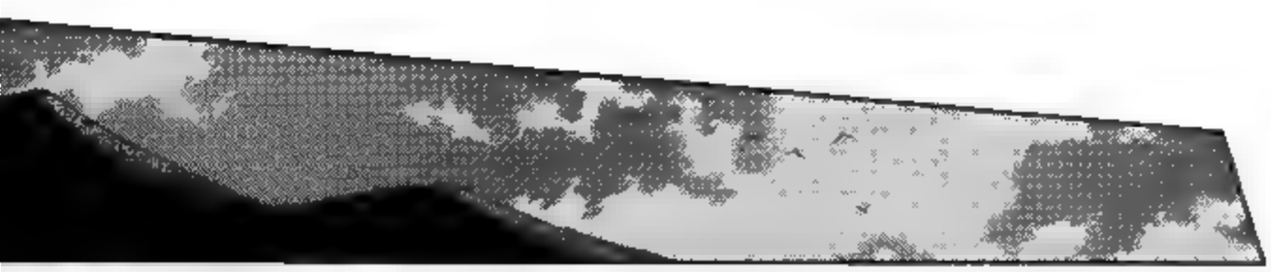

I SEE. WELL I'VE DECIDED...
A DIFFERENT HAIRPIN?
AH THIS?
.....?

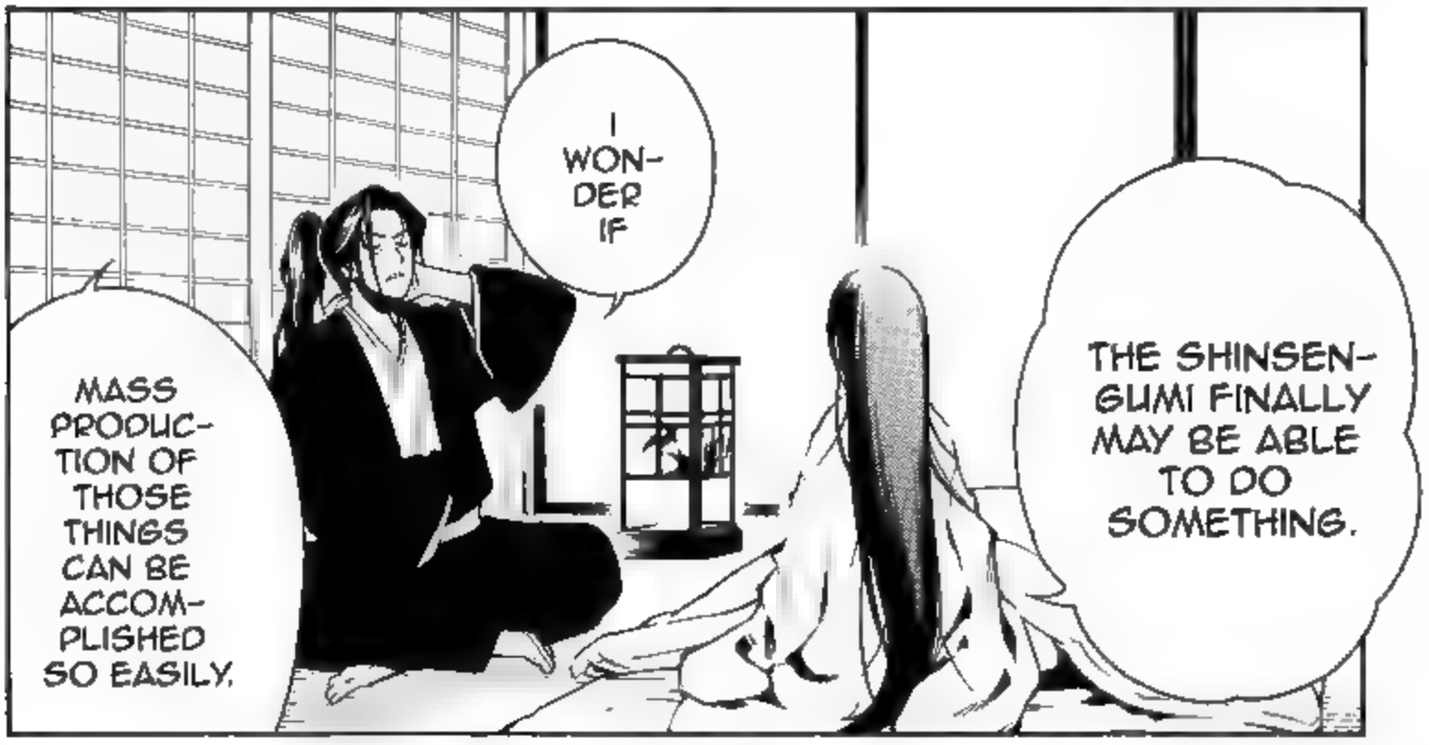
WELL, I THINK
THAT THE WAY SOME PEOPLE SAY GEISHA ARE PRETTIER THAN TAYUU IS WRONG.
SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG WITH THEIR EYES!
SFX BLUSH
!!
??
SFX BLUSH

T/N: A TAYUU IS A HIGH-RANKING COURTESAN

I WONDER,

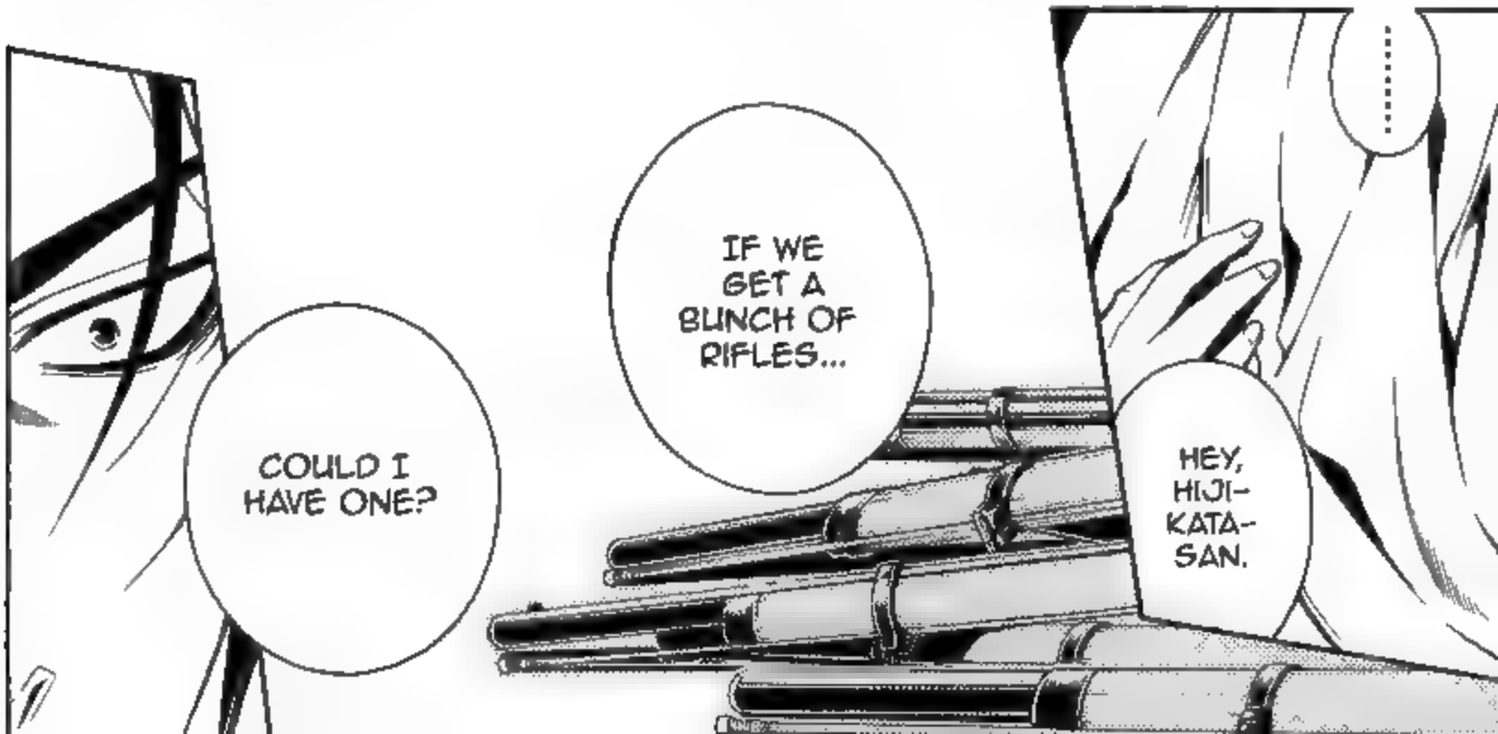
WHY DID I NOT TAKE HER HAND AT THAT TIME?




I WON-DER IF
MASS PRODUC-TION OF THOSE THINGS CAN BE ACCOM-PLISHED SO EASILY.
THE SHINSEN-GUMI FINALLY MAY BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING.

I'LL FOLLOW WHAT HE SAYS.
...KONDO-SAN'S OPINION IS FINE.
SFX: GIGGLE
EH

WAS YOUR INTENTION REALLY NOT TO GIVE HIM PER-MISSION?
IT'S WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE-.


COULD I HAVE ONE?
IF WE GET A BUNCH OF RIFLES...
HEY, HIJI-KATA-SAN.

.....
WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH IT?
HUH?
...NO
I JUST
I WANT TO TRY TO PICK IT UP...
.....
SFX: CLOSE
ガラ
!
NO
JUST FORGET IT, PLEASE.

SFX. CREAK
SFX. WHISPER
TOSHI
ARE YOU OKAY?

YES.
TOSHI, COME HAVE SOME TEA AND TALK WITH ME.
...KONDO-SAN
WERE YOU LISTENING?

SFX
HISS
...SO
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
IT'S ABOUT SOUJI.
SOON
WE WILL HAVE TO GO THOUGH THE TROUBLE OF FINDING ANOTHER PLACE FOR HIM TO STAY.
WE NEED TO ISOLATE HIM...?
WA... WAIT A SECOND.
NOT JUST SOUJI.
THE WEAK AND IN-JURED...
WIVES, CHILDREN, AND CONCUBINES... ALL OF THEM SHOULD FLEE TO A SAFER PLACE.

KYOTO
IS ABOUT TO BECOME A BATTLE-FIELD...!
WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE PROGRESSING,
THE LEADER OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE THE EMPEROR.
"TAISEI HOKAN" WAS DECIDED UPON IN DECEMBER.
THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE IS GOING TO FORMALLY COLLAPSE.
SATSUMA AND CHOSHU WANT TO DESTROY THE TOKUGAWA FROM THE VERY ROOT.
...IT LOOKS AS THOUGH

NEXT CHAPTER OUT ON (4/25)

CONTINUED IN THE NEXT PUBLIC KOSHAKU

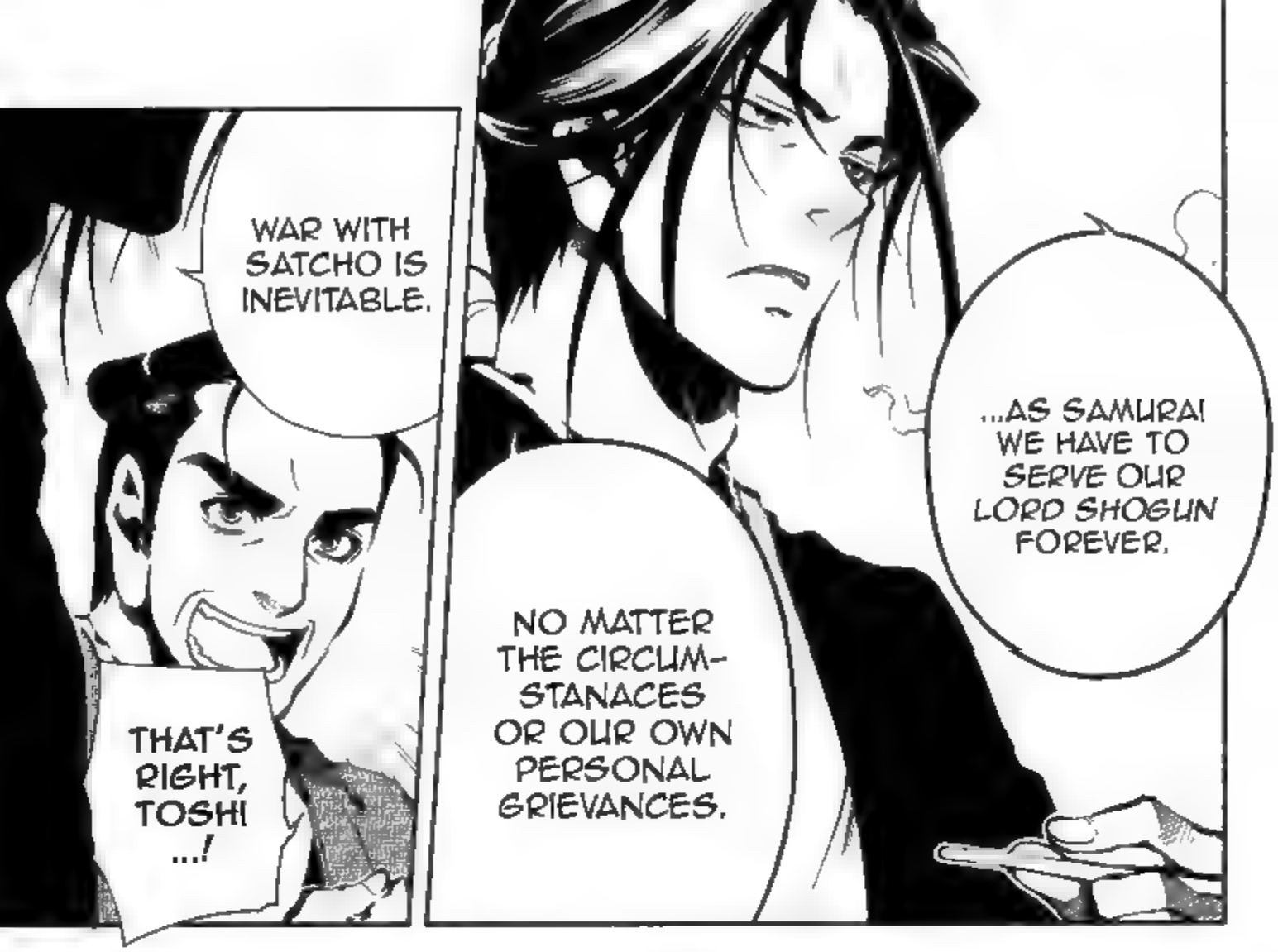
●新釈桃太郎伝奇「殲鬼戦記ももたま」第⑨巻 5月14日同日発売●

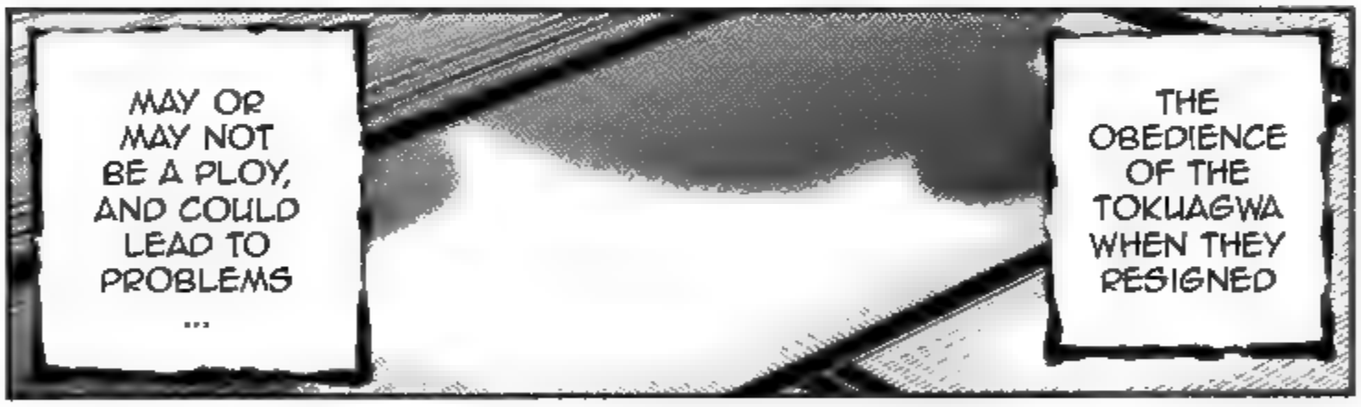
「PEACE MAKER 鐵」第⑦巻＆ドラマCD付限定版も同日発売

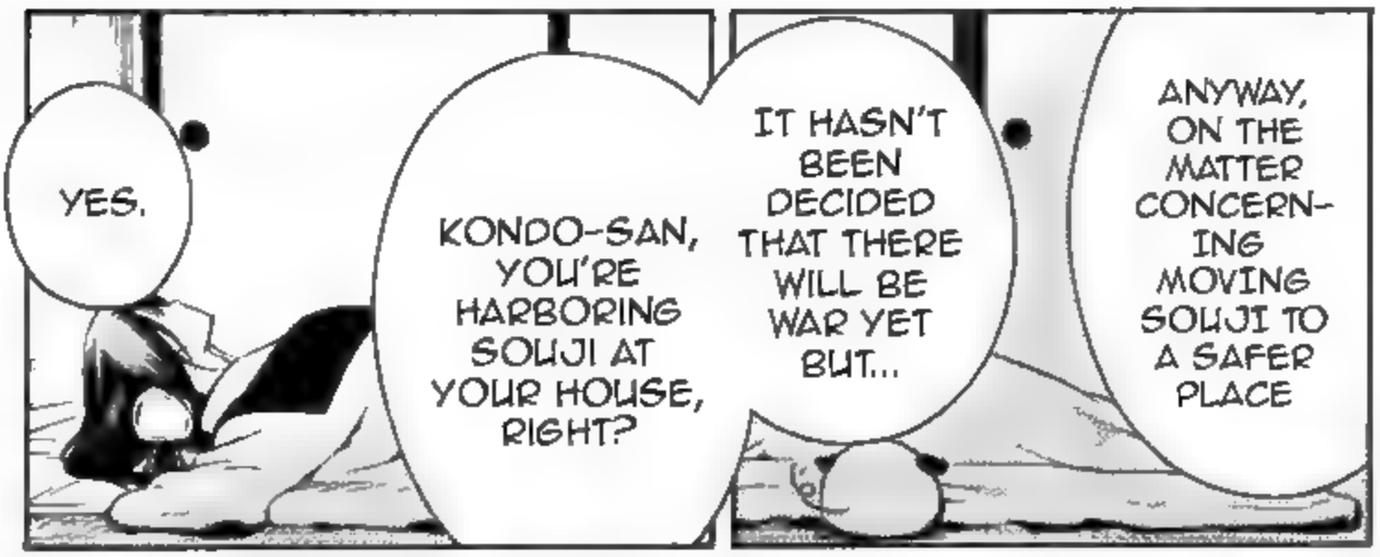
"TOBAKU" BASICALLY MEANS THAT THE TOKUGAWA BAKUFU WILL BE OVERTHROWN ...
THAT CAN'T HAPPEN.
BUT IT CAN HAPPEN...
A COMMAND FROM THE EMPEROR CAN HAVE A DEVASTATING EFFECT.
SATCHO
COULD EVEN BE PERMITTED TO SEND TROOPS HERE, TO KYOTO...!

WE'LL HAVE A BIG PROB-LEM ON OUR HANDS...
IF THAT'S ACTUALLY TRUE
.....
BUT MORE THAN THAT ...
THESE RUMORS ARE TROUBL-ING.
...
A COURT MEETING WILL BE HELD SOON.
BOTH THE TOKUGAWA AND AIZU-DONO REFUSED TO ATTEND.
WE CAN BE CONVICTED OF TREASON
WHILE LORD TOKUGAWA YOSHINOBU IS DOING NOTHING...!

IF THIS CONTIN-UES
WILL BE TAKEN BY THE ENEMY ...!!
THE POWER AND AUTHORITY OF THE TOKUGAWA...
NO.
.....
WE'LL HAVE TO UNIFY IN BEING SUBMI-SSIVE TO THEM
THAT WAY WE MAY BE ABLE TO GET AWAY FROM THEIR GRIP WITHOUT INJURY.
WITH ALL OUR SUPPORT WE CAN'T LOSE COMPLET-ELY.
THE SATCHO LEADERS ARE OUT FOR BLOOD FOR THE RESTORATION OF IMPERIAL RULE.
... BUT.

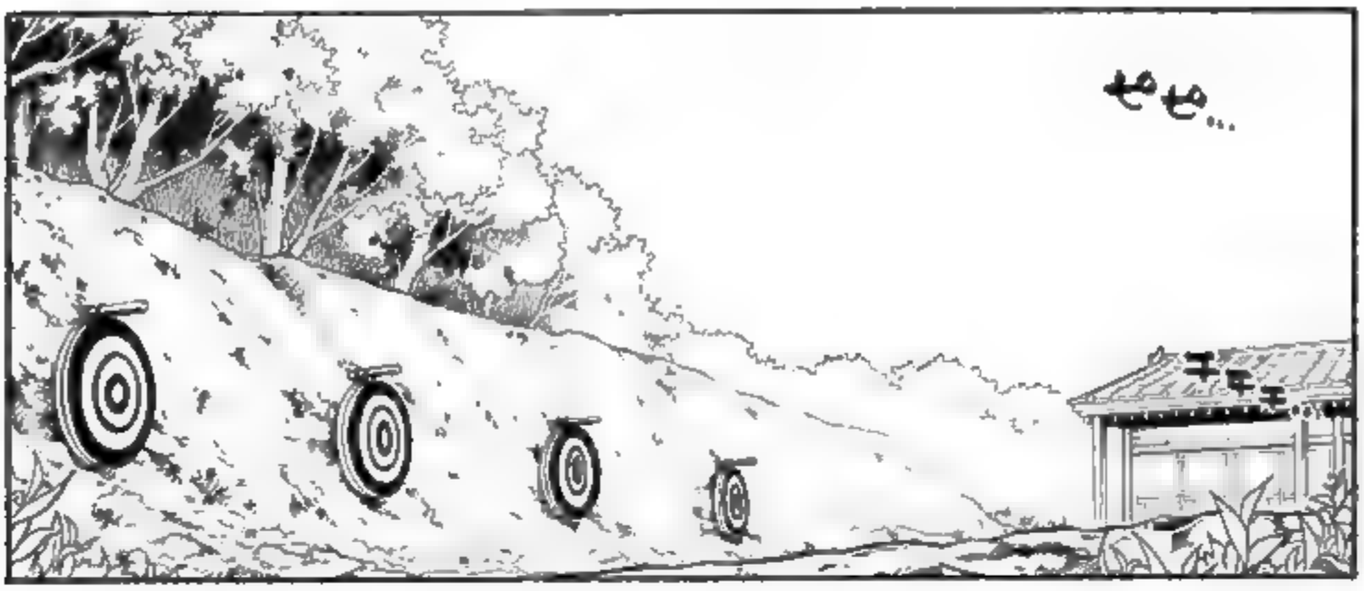

WAR WITH SATCHO IS INEVITABLE.
THAT'S RIGHT, TOSHI ...!
NO MATTER THE CIRCUM-STANACES OR OUR OWN PERSONAL GRIEVANCES.
...AS SAMURAI WE HAVE TO SERVE OUR LORD SHOGUN FOREVER.


MAY OR MAY NOT BE A PLOY, AND COULD LEAD TO PROBLEMS ...
THE OBEDIENCE OF THE TOKUAGWA WHEN THEY RESIGNED


YES.
KONDO-SAN, YOU'RE HARBORING SOUJI AT YOUR HOUSE, RIGHT?
IT HASN'T BEEN DECIDED THAT THERE WILL BE WAR YET BUT...
ANYWAY, ON THE MATTER CONCERN-ING MOVING SOUJI TO A SAFER PLACE

OF COURSE IT'S NO PROBLEM.
TO BE PREPARED FOR BATTLE AT ANY TIME.
TOSHI, I ASKED HIM
SEEMS LIKE WE FOUND MORE TO WORRY ABOUT.
... SO
A TEST "RIFLE TROOP" WOULD BE NICE...
DEPENDING ON ITS PERFOR-MANCE...
ABOUT THE GUN ICHIMURA TATSUNO-SUKE IS MAKING
HEY, KONDO-SAN.
DON'T ACT SO COWARD-LY!
はっはっは
OH COME ON TOSHI~!

SFX: GAHAHAHA
THE OUTCOME OF THE WAR WILL BE DECIDED FROM THE SPIRIT WE PUT IN OUR BLADES!
THE PROWESS OF OUR SWORDS WILL CARRY US THROUGH!
WE ARE HERE!
SFX: THROB
YEAH.
YOU'RE RIGHT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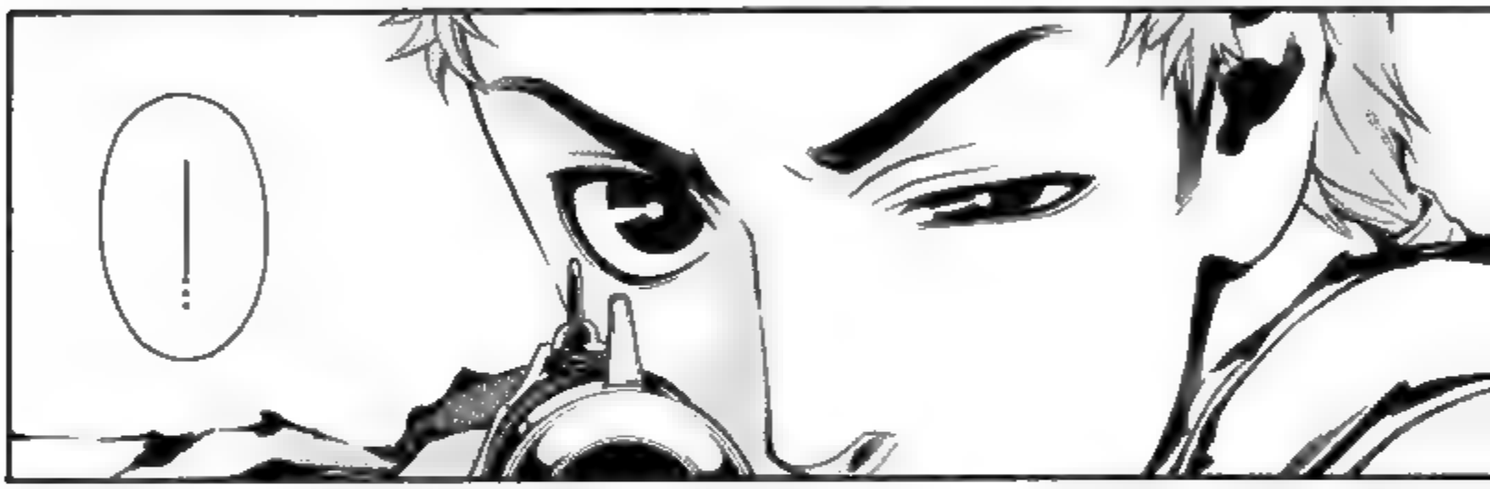
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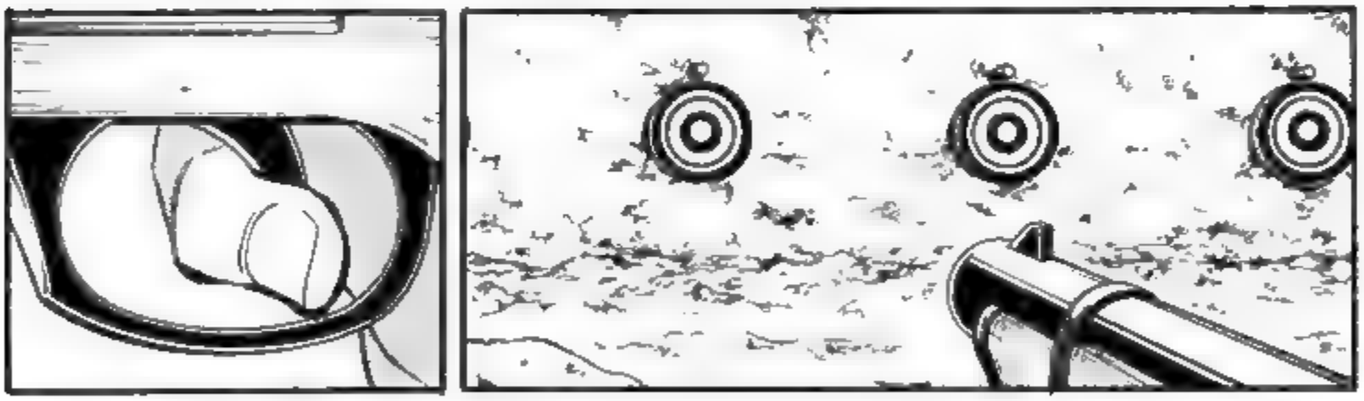
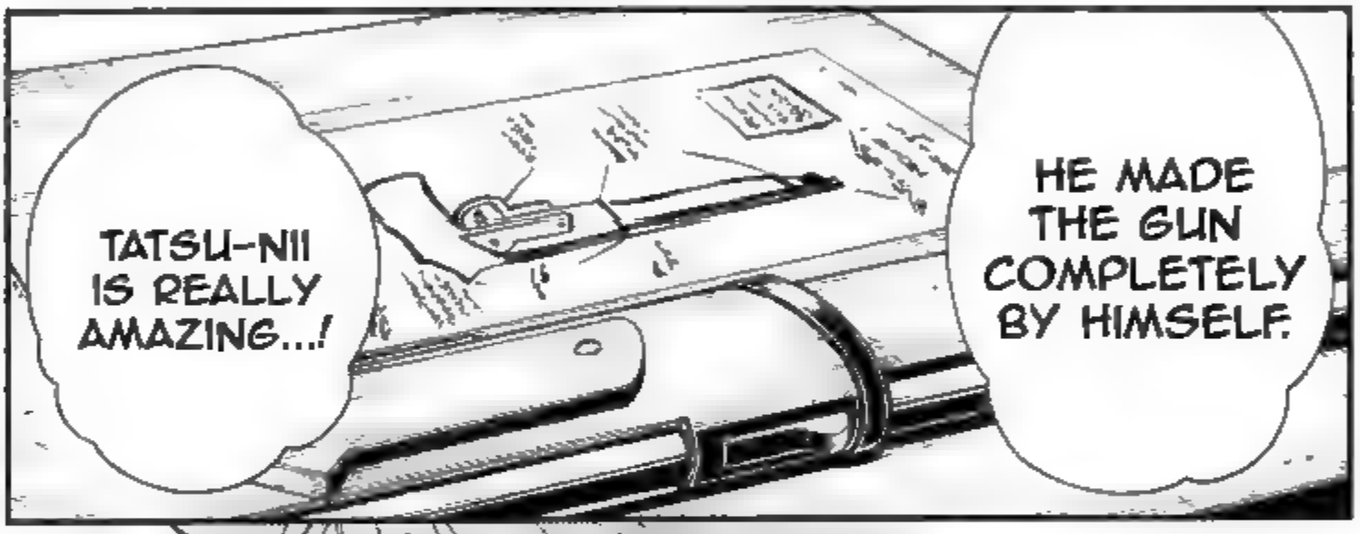


THAT WAS SO COOL, TATSU-NII!!
WHOA! RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE!

WHOA ...
...THE PLACE WHERE THE BULLET HIT IS A LITTLE TOO LOW.
IT NEEDS TO BE PERFECT. I CAN'T SLACK OFF.
PLEASE PREPARE THE SECOND ROUND.
LET'S SEE HOW FAR IT CAN TRULY SHOOT IN THIS STATE.
YES!
I HEARD THAT.
AFTER ALL THIS TIME HE'S STILL DILIGENTLY WORKING ON IT~
BEING SO LIVELY, IT'S LIKE HE'S A DIFFERENT PERSON.

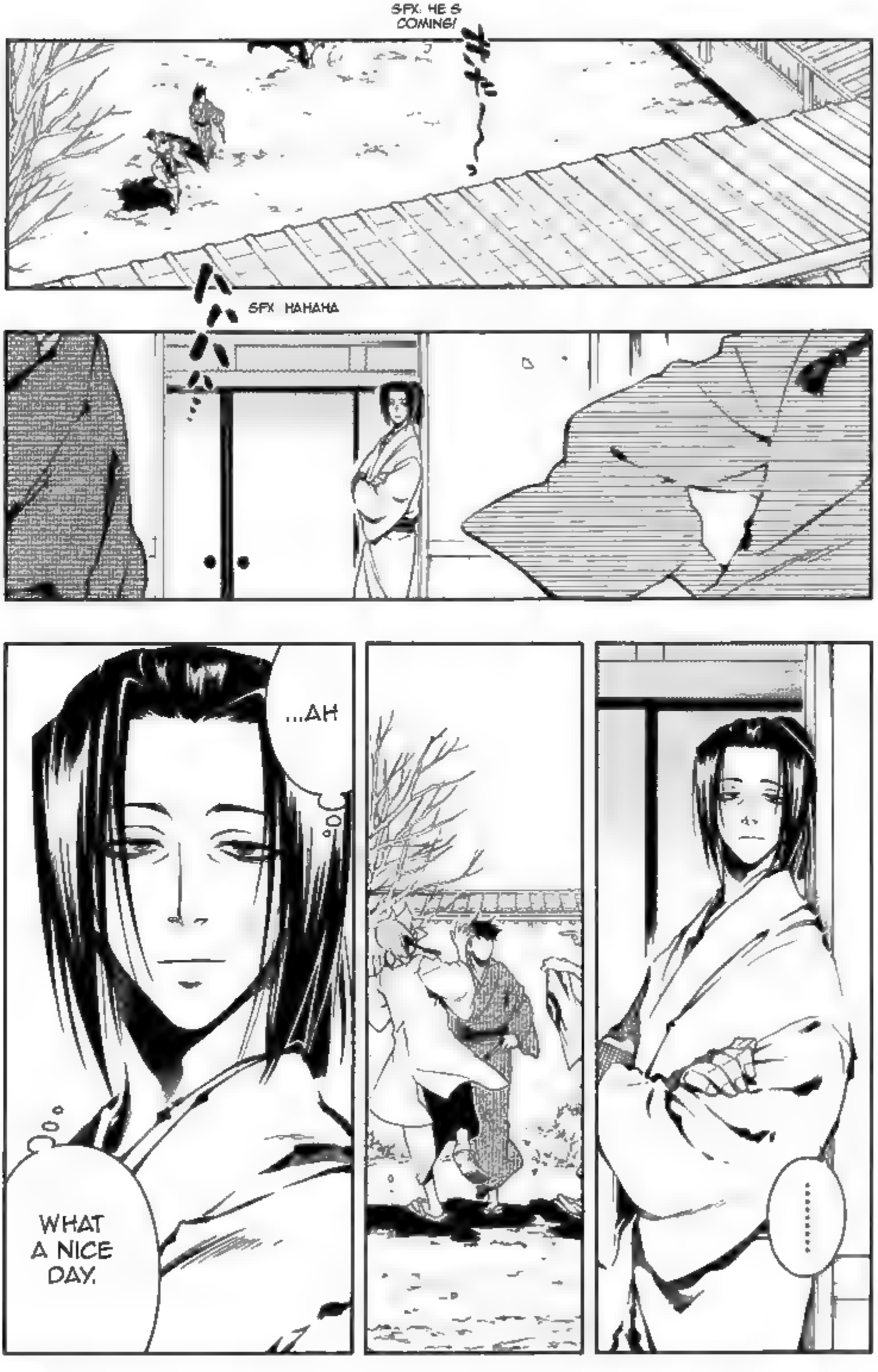
I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE HALF THE TALENT FOR SHOOTING HE HAD...
...ACTUALLY HE'S BEEN ADEPT AT DETAILED WORK FOR A LONG TIME.


TATSU-NII IS REALLY AMAZING...!
HE MADE THE GUN COMPLETELY BY HIMSELF.

THE TIMES ARE CHANGING.
IT'S ALL SHOWN IN THE TALENT HE POSSESSES.
IT MUST BE THE FORM OF THE "WAVE OF CHANGE" RUMOR OF THE WAR.
HE'S BEEN GLUED TO THAT GUN SINCE HE GOT IT.

TATSU-NII
WILL BE JUST FINE.
HE'LL BE FINE.
.....
.....
C'MON SUSUMU!
HUH?
I JUST THOUGHT OF SOME-THING FUN TO DO!

THE ACCURACY ISN'T EFFICIENT ENOUGH ...
HM?
BECAUSE OF THE DIRECTION OF THE WIND, THE BULLET VEERED TO THE RIGHT.
WHAT'S WITH THAT TARGET?
SFX: GYAHAHA
TETSU
※ TATSUNOSUKE'S LOINCLOTH


SFX: HE S COMING!
SFX HAHAHA
...AH
WHAT A NICE DAY.
.....

...THEY MUST
HAVE STRONG HEARTS.
ABOUT A WEEK LATER ...

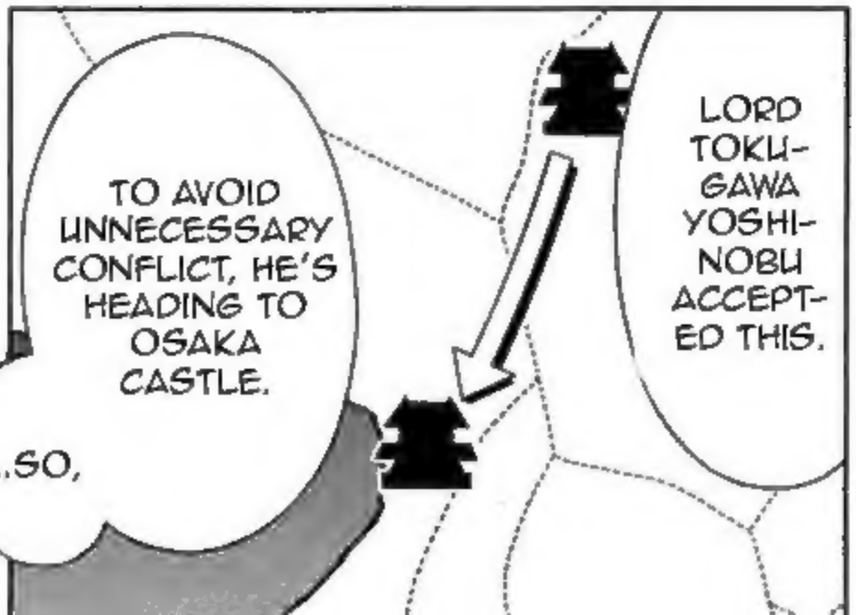
DECEMBER 9, 1867
THE "OUSEIFUKKO NO DAIGOUREI" WAS ANNOUNCED.
THE IMPERIAL DECREE STATED THAT
THE TOKUGAWA BAKUFU AND THE POSITION OF SHOGUN WOULD BE ABOLISHED.
THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE COMPRISED OF A NEW GROUP OF OFFICIALS.
...UM
I DON'T GET IT.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU'RE SAYING.

IN OTHER WORDS,
THIS IS THE END OF THE EDO PERIOD?
the time period? what are you...?
...DON'T JUMP TO CONCLU-SIONS.

HEY HEY HEY HEY !!
WHY ARE YOU ALL SO CALM !?
THE SHOGUN JUST ABAN-DONED US ALL!!

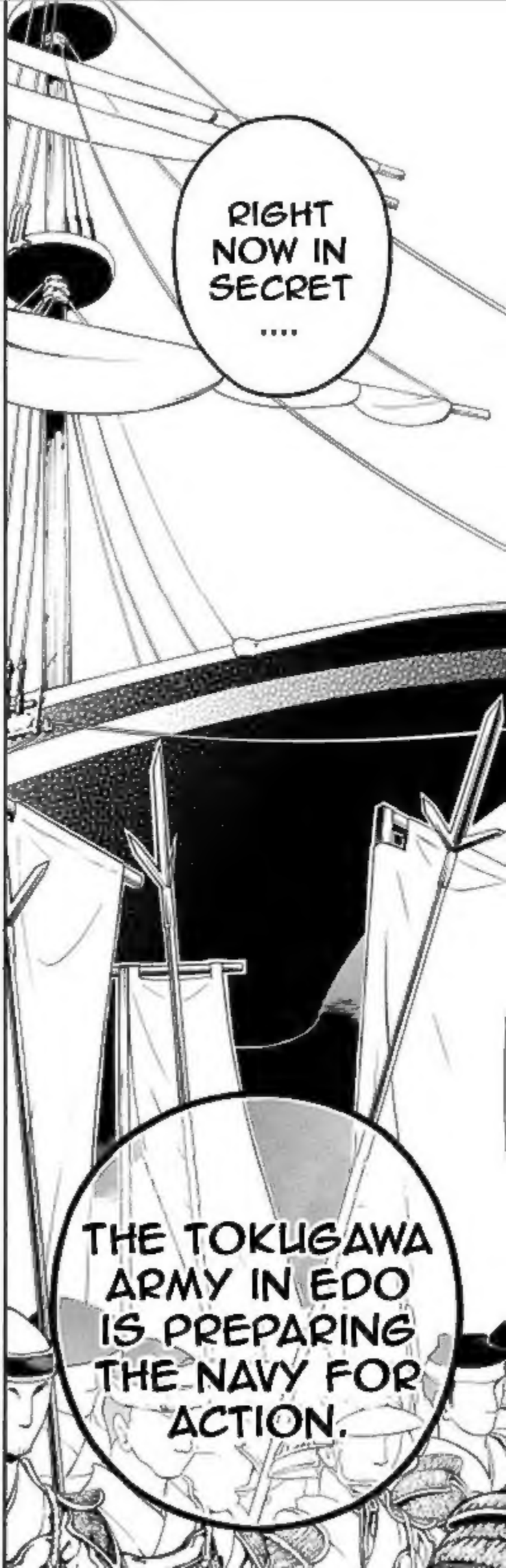
THE TERRITORY OF THE TOKUGAWA FAMILY AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE THERE WERE JUST TRANSFERRED TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT.
LOOK BEYOND YOUR OWN SELFISHNESS BEFORE SPEAKING.
JUST SHUT THE HELL UP!!

CALM DOWN, HARADA.
THE ENEMY IS TRYING TO PRO-VOKE US.


LORD TOKU-GAWA YOSHI-NOBU ACCEPT-ED THIS.
TO AVOID UNNECESSARY CONFLICT, HE'S HEADING TO OSAKA CASTLE.
...SO,

... EVERY-ONE,

INSTEAD OF A GROUP OF RONIN" WE INDISPUT-ABLY ARE
ALREADY WORTHY OF BEING "VASSALS OF THE SHOGUN"
... AND SO,


RIGHT NOW IN SECRET ....
THE TOKUGAWA ARMY IN EDO IS PREPARING THE NAVY FOR ACTION.

THE SHIN-SEN-GUMI WILL ALSO GO TO OSAKA
TO SHOW OUR LOYALTY TO LORD TOKU-GAWA YOSHI-NOBU !!!!
……
OLD MAN RYOMA HAD SAID.
IT'S JUST LIKE WHAT

WAR IS STARTING.

NEXT CHAPTER OUT ON (5/25)